



# Voices from the Margins and Inclusive Policy Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

## Key Findings Theme 5: State Response 1<sup>st</sup> Round Panel Survey

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## Key Findings

- More than one-fourth of the marginal households (28%) reported of receiving some kind of government support package during the COVID-19 pandemic. The worst case scenario was for the slum dwellers (23.3%) while the highest reporting is found for ethnic and religious groups (33%). Two types of support were mentioned namely 'food' (76.7%) and 'financial' (38.2%) support during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Tables 5.1, and 5.2)
- Mostly marginal people were not satisfied with the government's support in getting fair market price of the agricultural products. Nearly 90% of the survey respondents fall in that group where more than 52.9% were clear with their statement on how they feel regarding the issue. (Table 5.3)
- Marginal people were not in favor of the then countrywide lockdown from April 14th, 2021. Overall 56.2 % of them showed their disagreement of imposing the country wide lockdown where urban slum dwellers were at the upper end (66%). (Table 5.4)
- Slum dwellers are the most informed marginal group when it comes to knowledge about the government's effort to regaining the overall economic losses. And, the ethnic and religious minority group are least in support of the view that they will benefit from it. Just one third of them are hopeful about it. (Table 5.5)
- Most of the marginalised community people were skeptical about their inclusion in the in the government's economic rebuilding/ recovery initiatives. Overall 37.2% household mentioned their perceived inclusion in such initiative by the government. In this regard the status of 'ethnic and religious minority communities' is at the lower end (23%) while the 'rural poor' scored the highest (52.5%). (Table 5.6)
- All the marginalised groups indicated their expectation of getting financial support from the government. Additionally, they expressed their expectation to receive the livelihood support from the government too. (Table 5.7)
- All the groups prioritised the importance to get skills training on agriculture or the enhancement of technical skills training. Indigenous people urged to get the assistance in marketing their agricultural products. (Table 5.8)
- A 69% of the total population agreed to re-open educational institutions in compliance with proper health regulations. (Table 5.9)
- A good number of people (77%) are hoping that the government will ensure the fair inclusion of their community in delivering the COVID-19 vaccine. (Table 5.10)
- More than 90% of the respondents mentioned that their preference to get government financial assistance is through mobile banking. (Table 5.11)
- The local representatives' involvement by being alongside the marginal people are nearly absent according to this survey. Only 18.8% marginalised households found local representatives by their side during the Corona pandemic. (Table 5.12)

**Table 5.1: Proportion of household receiving government's COVID-19 support package during the pandemic (%)**

	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Received government's COVID-19 support package	33.1	26.7	23.3	29.3	29.9	27.7
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.2: Type of government's support received during the pandemic (Multiple answers)**

Type of support	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Financial support	41.1	51.4	18.5	51.9	38.1	38.2
Food support	81.6	61.3	88.2	77.8	82.5	76.7
Accommodation	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Small loans	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.2
Healthcare	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	3.2	1.9
n	163	142	119	54	63	424

**Table 5.3: Satisfaction with the government's support to get a fair market price of the agricultural products (%)**

Indicator	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Highly Satisfied	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.2
Satisfied	7.9	14.9	2.2	11.6	4.4	10.0
Somewhat satisfied	30.7	38.5	47.1	40.0	32.7	36.8
Not satisfied	61.1	46.6	50.0	48.4	61.9	52.9
n	329	369	138	95	113	836

**Table 5.4: Agreement with the countrywide lockdown from April 14th, 2021 (%)**

Indicator	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Totally Agree	3.3	0.9	0.8	2.2	1.9	1.6
Moderately Agree	11.6	9.4	5.3	9.8	8.5	8.7
Somewhat Agree	33.1	39.0	28.0	36.4	30.3	33.5
Not at all agree	52.0	50.7	65.9	51.6	59.2	56.2
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.5: Optimism about the government’s effort to regaining the overall economic losses (%)**

Indicator	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Very hopeful	8.5	14.1	9.8	14.1	10.4	10.9
Hopeful	13.2	32.4	25.9	25.0	28.4	24.1
Moderately hopeful	32.7	25.0	48.4	35.9	28.9	35.3
Not at all hopeful	19.5	7.5	14.3	10.3	13.3	13.6
Don't know	26.0	20.9	1.6	14.7	19.0	16.1
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.6: Thoughts about respondent’s community’s inclusion in the government’s economic rebuilding/ recovery initiatives (in %)**

	Yes	No	Don't know	N
Ethnic & Religious Minority	22.8	20.7	56.5	492
Rural Poor	52.5	10.2	37.3	531
Slum Dwellers	35.3	26.5	38.2	510
Persons with Disability	41.8	14.7	43.5	184
Female headed Household	30.3	22.7	46.9	211
All	37.2	19.0	43.8	1533

**Table 5.7: Type of support expected from the government (Multiple answers) (%)**

Type of support	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Financial Support	75.0	82.5	79.6	80.4	79.1	79.1
Livelihood support	63.0	68.9	55.5	63.6	61.1	62.6
Social Safety net support	16.9	7.3	8.8	10.9	10.4	10.9
Food support	47.2	53.3	54.7	51.6	55.9	51.8
Skills Development Support	14.2	7.9	9.8	9.2	10.4	10.6
Healthcare support	9.3	3.2	10.2	9.8	10.0	7.5
Agricultural equipment support	13.6	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.7	6.9
Reducing the price of essential food items	52.2	37.3	23.3	37.5	35.5	37.4
Free COVID-19 test	19.1	12.4	11.2	15.2	12.8	14.2
Making COVID-19 test affordable	2.6	5.1	5.7	6.5	5.2	4.5
COVID-19 treatment at the Upazila level	7.3	2.8	7.8	9.2	3.3	5.9
Facilitate the process of vaccination	15.0	8.3	10.0	12.5	9.0	11.0
Provide micro credit facility	10.4	12.6	6.5	9.2	8.5	9.8
Debt interest waiver	8.1	9.2	6.7	8.2	8.1	8.0
Others	2.2	1.5	0.6	0.5	2.4	1.4
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.8: Potential areas where government support need to be expanded (Multiple answers) (in %)**

Area of improvement	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Increasing livelihood opportunities	88.2	92.5	92.9	92.4	90.0	91.3
Technical skills enhancement training	36.0	38.6	40.4	37.5	31.8	38.4
Training to increase agricultural/farming skills	25.6	14.7	4.5	13.6	14.2	14.8
Enhancing cooperation for business among tribal communities	43.1	0.6	0.6	12.0	12.8	14.2
Distribution of paddy/vegetables, fertilizers/seeds	22.8	10.5	9.4	10.9	11.8	14.1
Provide training in agricultural crop/foreign fruit production	23.0	6.4	1.2	6.5	9.0	10.0
Assistance in marketing of agricultural grains	36.8	10.9	7.1	14.1	16.1	17.9
Take steps to stop violence against women and children	7.3	3.0	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.6
Ensure security of life and property	12.6	5.3	12.5	10.9	11.8	10.0
Prevent child marriage	5.7	3.4	2.4	3.8	3.8	3.8
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.9: Expectation from the government regarding children's education (Multiple answers) (%)**

Expectations	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Reopening of school and colleges soon	48.2	71.6	76.9	60.9	59.7	65.8
Reopening of school and colleges after controlling COVID-19	29.9	31.3	17.1	27.7	26.1	26.1
Reopening of school and colleges by maintaining social distancing	47.2	35.8	44.9	40.2	41.2	42.5
Increasing online class outreach	0.8	0.6	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.2
Teachers will come and teach from house to house	2.6	5.1	3.9	2.7	1.4	3.9
Waiver of school fees	17.3	13.7	31.0	26.6	19.0	20.6
Others	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.6
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.10: The government will ensure the fair inclusion of the community in delivering the COVID-19 vaccine (%)**

	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Very hopeful	13.2	22.0	15.3	19.0	17.1	17.0
Hopeful	18.1	30.1	31.0	26.6	25.6	26.5
Moderately hopeful	36.0	27.7	36.5	33.7	35.5	33.3
Not at all hopeful	9.1	2.3	7.8	6.5	7.6	6.3
Don't know	23.6	17.9	9.4	14.1	14.2	16.9
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533



**Table 5.11: Preferred alternative channels to receive financial support from the government (%)**

	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Own mobile banking	93.3	97.2	91.2	91.3	92.9	93.9
Own bank account	3.9	0.6	2.5	1.6	2.8	2.3
Local representative	1.4	0.2	1.4	1.6	0.5	1.0
Others	1.4	2.1	4.9	5.4	3.8	2.8
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533

**Table 5.12: Local government representatives remained by side during the COVID-19 pandemic (%)**

	Ethnic & Religious Minority	Rural Poor	Slum Dwellers	Persons with Disability	Female headed Household	All
Local representatives remained by side (Yes)	26.6	15.6	14.5	19.6	21.8	18.8
N	492	531	510	184	211	1533