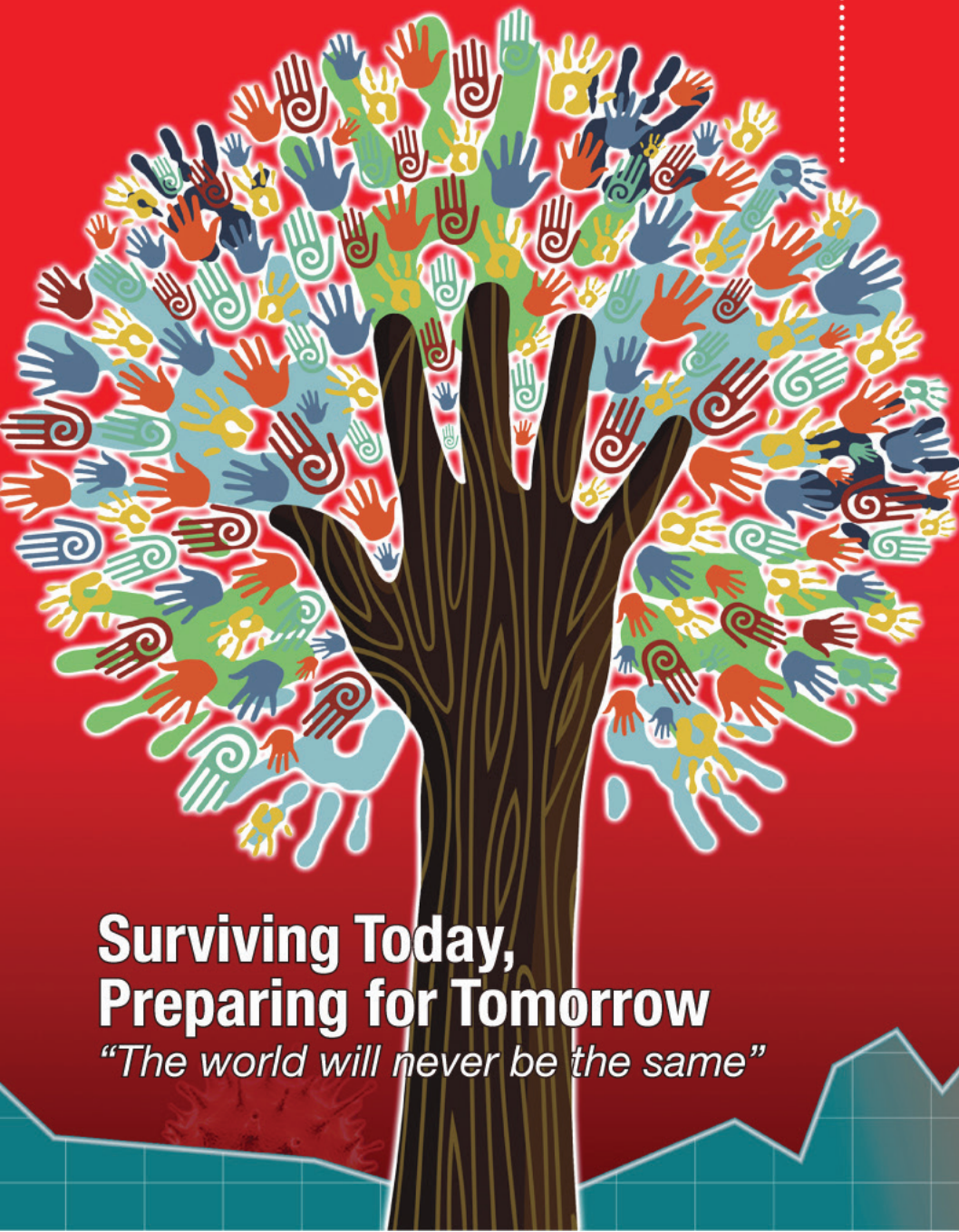


# ResInt Research Review



**Surviving Today,  
Preparing for Tomorrow**  
*"The world will never be the same"*

The Consumer in the Age of Coronavirus  
Philip Kotler

The Anxiety of Walking About: Eight Countries at  
Different Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic  
Neil Seeman

Life in a Post-Pandemic World  
Russell Belk

Containing the Spread of COVID-19:  
Behavioral Patterns in a South Asian Nation  
Syed Saad Andaleeb  
Mahreen Mamoon

Price Ethics and Corona  
Hermann Simon

COVID-19: How Social Marketing  
Can Help Create the New Normal?  
Jeff French

Pandemonium and The Pandemic –  
A Peek into The Future for India  
Amit Roy

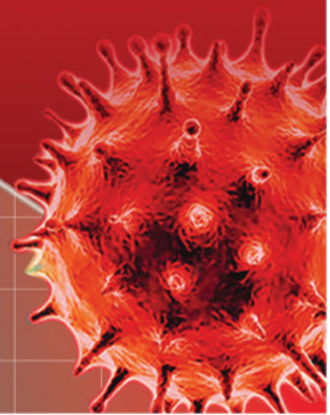
Build for The Crises to Come  
Runa Khan

Why – "It Will Never Be the Same Again"?  
Hermawan Kartijaya

Impact of COVID-19 on the Donors' initiative  
in Development Cooperation.  
Noor Mohammad

Digitalization Strategies Amid COVID-19:  
One Size Doesn't Fit All  
Iwan Setiawan  
Rifaldo Meiza  
Andi Magie Fitrahnurila  
Anggia Aryandita

Transition in Life to Bring  
Transformation for Future Business  
Bushan D Sudhakar  
R Venkatesh Kumar







# Impact of COVID-19 on the Donors' Initiative in Development Cooperation

Noor Mohammad

“As the world wrestles with the unprecedented implications of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, we are facing a human crisis unlike any we have experienced, and our social fabric and cohesion is under stress.”

UN Deputy-Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed  
during a digital meeting of the Forum's COVID Action Platform on 8 April 2020.

Being a development practitioner for more than three decades, I am also compelled to adopt new things to keep continuing my work, to meet my family needs, keep connected with my colleagues, friends and relatives. Definitely we had some exposure and experiences of 'working from home' in the past but for this situation, it is definitely totally different. What would this COVID-19 situation will lead us to? I have been closely observing the pandemic situation, the data all over the globe and from Bangladesh, the initiatives to face this challenge and what could be its impact?

The first case in Bangladesh was identified in the first week of March. Since then hundreds of people already died. Government of Bangladesh declared 'Special Holidays' (a form of lockdown) effective from 26 March 2020. According to mobile phone companies, more than 10 million mobile phone users have moved out of Dhaka city and surrounding areas. The number of positive cases identified now spread

**The contributions of non-government development organizations and civil societies cannot be ignored**



**Noor Mohammad** Ph.D. has been working as the Executive Director of Population Services and Training Center (PSTC), a leading public health organization in Bangladesh.

over 64 administrative districts in a country of 168 million population where 40 percent live in urban areas, which have generated many questions. The Bangladesh Government,

not been given to NGO sector. There was no mention of the NGO service providers or their frontline workers who have been serving the humanity taking risk of their own lives.



As a CEO of a non-government development organization, we have been implementing several development projects with the approval of the government and support from different donors. In my last couple of weeks' time, I had to participate in different donors' meeting where the donors have already given us few decisions; like, they are not thinking of any new initiative to fund, there will be no extension of the current intervention and moreover they have asked for reducing the approved budget with 15-30 percent cut. This gives a clear

under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, from the very beginning has been trying to take different measures to minimize spreading of virus. It is commended from different corners for her aptitude and timely initiative. Obviously, she has also given her thinking of upcoming stalled and/or

**... progress could be jeopardized by the decision of donors for their cut or discontinuation due to COVID-19 situation**

or recessed economic crisis. To overcome the crisis, she has already announced 'motivational packages' for every sector.

Without any bias, I must say from my experiences that in the progress of Bangladesh, contributions of non-government development organizations and

civil societies cannot be ignored. These organizations have worked to supplement and complement state initiatives which is recognized by the government itself in different national and international fora.

However, in this unprecedented crisis, the Government announced motivational packages almost to all the sectors including the business communities, but due attention has

picture that support from the donor partners are not only squeezed, in future it might face a drastic short coming related to the development of the country.

Before writing the impact of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, I would like to draw attention of the reader of two recent studies, one national and another international. Keller and Kaufman (2020) in their recent publication published (on 30 Apr 2020) by Center for Global Development mentioned Bangladesh scenario in their study titled, 'Examining the Uncertainties in Global Health Aid through the Lens of Family Planning'. They categorically told, the government of Bangladesh covers 96 percent of family planning commodity costs, while donors and NGOs continue to fund the majority of enabling environment activities, including key population programs, quality assurance, and provider training. If family planning donors were to reduce external aid in the coming years, the government may be hard-pressed to fill gaps given competing health financing needs.

On the other hand, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), an NGO expressed grave concern on 8 April 2020 about the rising trend of domestic violence against women during Corona-induced countrywide lockdown. Drawing attention



to recent call by UN Secretary General to take speedy actions to prevent domestic violence across countries, MJF urged the government of Bangladesh to take effective measures by prioritizing issues of violence against women and children in official COVID-19 National Response Plan. They cited data received from reliable sources, MJF said that 36 rape incidents occurred in March in three districts: Bogra, Jamalpur and Cox's Bazar, including more than 300 incidences of domestic abuse and violence in these three districts during the same period.

The above two studies clearly indicate two important indicators (in Family Planning and Gender-Based Violence) of Bangladesh progress could be jeopardized by the decision of donors for their cut or discontinuation due to COVID-19 situation. Bangladesh often cited as one of the role models in achieving goals of MDGs and was expected that it would also be doing good in achieving SDGs. But if the COVID-19 situation continues in this manner will lead the development cooperation to be stalled through budget cuts. Thus, achieving the global targets would be in big dilemma.

This pandemic is a collective crisis and saving of lives and reviving the livelihoods are the priorities of society. Not only in Bangladesh, many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America will face the same challenges impacting the COVID-19. Start-ups are coming up with innovative

partnerships, as we are going to face challenges of inadequate financial issues. Countries need to adopt more to new order of sensitivity and responsibility as they aim to survive and revive in the 'new normal.'

I would like to conclude this writing quoting Ana Botín, executive chairman, Santander, "One of the critical things in this crisis we've been trying to get across... is that we have to throw away the rule book. We've never seen this kind of crisis in our lives".

#### References:

1. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/covid-19-action-call-8-apr/>
2. <https://www.euromoney.com/article/b1lj77ns18lmg3/covid-19>
3. <https://yourstory.com/2020/04/alliances-coronavirus-covid19>
4. <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/examining-uncertainties-global-health-aid-through-lens-family-planning-tale-three-countries>
5. [http://www.manusherjonno.org/latest\\_stories/corona-situation-increases-violence-against-women-in-the-country-mjf-urges-the-government-to-take-effective-measures/](http://www.manusherjonno.org/latest_stories/corona-situation-increases-violence-against-women-in-the-country-mjf-urges-the-government-to-take-effective-measures/)
6. <https://www.bangladeshpost.net/posts/demographic-consequences-of-covid-19-30840>
7. <http://103.247.238.81/webportal/pages/covid19.php>

**Citation:** ResInt Research Review Vol 4, No 1 May 2020.  
[https://resint.ca/files/research\\_review\\_2020.pdf](https://resint.ca/files/research_review_2020.pdf)

