

150,000 RMG Workers and Slum-Dwellers of Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj & Narsingdi will Get Free Consultations from Digital Healthcare Solutions, USAID and Save the Children

7 Digital Doctor Booths & 41 Health Camps will be set up to support the marginalized people with COVID-19 and other general health issues as well

Digital Healthcare Solutions (DH), a social business committed to ensuring 'Health For All', has partnered with USAID's MaMoni Maternal and Newborn Care Strengthening Project: Emergency Response to COVID-19 Pandemic implemented by Save the Children in association with factories under BEPZA and BGMEA to serve 150,000 marginalized people of Bangladesh, including the RMG workers and slum dwellers of Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Narsingdi. Starting from 1st February, the project will provide free doctor consultations along with the free **Surokkhito** package with up to Tk. 20,000 Free Health Cashback*.

Digital Hospital (the social brand of Digital Healthcare Solutions) and USAID funded MaMoni Maternal and Newborn Care Strengthening Project: Emergency Response to COVID-19 Pandemic implemented by Save the Children in Bangladesh are setting up Digital Doctor Booths at 7 factories of Dhaka and its surrounding areas of Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Narsingdi. RMG workers of these factories will now be able to consult with specialist doctors of Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Dermatology, and Psychology for themselves and their families via Video calls, completely free of cost, at these Digital Doctor booths. Apart from this, a total of 41, day-long Health Camps with MBBS doctors will also be set up at various RMG factories and slums where people of the surrounding areas will be able to directly consult with the doctors regarding various health-related issues.

Furthermore, the 150,000 people will also be registered under the **Surokkhito** package for free; where they will have 24/7 access to Doctor Call via 08 000 111 000 (toll-free) apart from Doctor Video Calls through the Digital Hospital app, Free Health Cashback* up to Tk. 20,000 and Free Life insurance of Tk. 10,000 for 3 months.

With the RMG sector making up around 83% of Bangladesh's overall export and employing nearly 4 million people, the RMG workers are the backbone of Bangladesh's economy, generating over \$32 billion every year. Due to the lockdowns imposed all over the world and specially Europe bearing almost 60% of the consumption, the RMG industry of Bangladesh has suffered a huge blow due to the onslaught of COVID-19 when prohibition on imports was placed in the European and American markets. With factories shutting down, employers were forced lay off and/or stop the payment of wages due to losses incurred. This has only caused RMG workers to suffer more due to lack of earning and limited access to healthcare with a quarter of them already living under the poverty line. With over 60% of RMG workers being women, lack of healthcare service access, worsen maternal and child health, lead to babies with lower birth weight, apart from many other issues. Therefore, free specialist consultations, particularly with Gynaecologists and Paediatricians can make a big difference by ensuring quick and reliable care, impacting their ability to work and generate income and contribute to the national economy.

Andrew Smith, CCO of Digital Healthcare Solutions says, "The Ready Made Garment sector in Bangladesh is a huge part of the economy and society – the largest export driver, and largest employer of women. The COVID pandemic caused major economic and social impacts, with billions of dollars of orders paused in 2020, and hundreds of thousands of women unable to earn, and afraid to go to healthcare facilities due to the virus. So, we are proud to support this great initiative from US AID and

Save the Children, in Partnership with BGMEA and BEPZA, to provide a comprehensive package of healthcare support to RMG workers, and to mothers and families in urban slums. Health for all, and also supporting a key industry for the future of Bangladesh.”

Dr. Umme Salma Jahan Meena, Chief of Party, USAID’s MaMoni MNCSP says, “Given the current challenges in accessing essential healthcare services, we felt that this intervention was much needed. We have been working in the maternal and newborn healthcare sector for quite some time and our data says, people are hesitant to visit healthcare centers fearing contraction of COVID-19 virus. This is leading to a decline in women’s health specially if they are pregnant and/or new mothers. Equally, additional costs incurred when someone is affected by COVID-19 virus also takes a toll on their already impacted financial situation. By introducing micro health schemes and online doctors’ consultation services, we hope to make healthcare services accessible and affordable for all.”

To know more about Digital Healthcare Solutions, call 08 000 111 000 (toll-free) or visit dh.health.