The top 3 most urgent needs for households in southwest Bangladesh:

- **81.6%** Food consumption
- **71.8%** Revive livelihoods
- **62.2%** Healthcare services

91.8% of households confirmed that incomes were reduced. 720 households were women headed.

**Overview**

Nobo Jatra Working Areas, southwest Bangladesh

This assessment highlights the impact of COVID-19 on poor and extreme poor households covered by USAID’s Development Food Security Activity, ‘Nobo Jatra-New Beginning’, implemented by World Vision Bangladesh.

The COVID-19 impact assessment covered:

- **3,720** household members
- **720** households (101 households were women headed)
- **1,923** women
- **1,797** men

91.8% of households confirmed that incomes were reduced.

**Highlights**

**Health and Nutrition**

Since COVID-19, there has been a sharp decrease in the number of people accessing basic primary health services.

92% of respondents, from male and female headed households, said they were facing mental stress as a result of the pandemic.

*pre COVID-19 = prior to Government lockdown in March 2020*
Livelihoods

94.1% households reported that livelihoods were negatively affected as a result of COVID-19.

Savings

80.5% households had no savings
12.5% households took loans from MFIs and local money lenders in the previous month – and the average interest rate for these loans is 10.9%.

Reduced incomes are also having an adverse effect on health, safety and well being:
36.2% of households are unable to afford healthcare
13.7% of respondents said they were sending children out to work and
3.9% had to marry their children off early.

Top 3 coping mechanisms for reduced incomes:
- Use up savings
- Sell land or trees
- Sell productive assets

Food Security

56.4% borrow food
51.7% rely on less nutritious, cheaper food
50% with children under 2 are unable to provide a diverse, nutritious diet to the child due to lack of incomes and access to markets as a result of COVID-19.

Gender

86.9% reported increased time on cleaning.
84.7% said husbands or other male caregivers were helping with child care and housework.
28% reported that risks of child marriage and other forms of Gender Based Violence have increased during COVID-19.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene

17% decrease in access to safe water (80% pre COVID-19, 67% now)
74.3% of respondents confirmed it takes longer to collect water due to long queues, limited transportation options and greater pressure on water resources.

Supporting households to recover

Improved nutrition via multi-purpose cash grants
Access to finance via Village Savings and Lending Associations
Strengthen productive capacities of vulnerable households
Accelerate income generating opportunities and adapt business models to a COVID-19 context
Scale up Social Behavior Change on health, nutrition, hygiene, COVID-19 and Gender Based violence

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