



# MANAGING IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES WITH CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

**Timeline:** August 2020- January 2023

**Focal person:**

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) in collaboration with BRAC (the largest non-governmental organization in the world) and Dimagi (a for-profit social enterprise based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, that delivers open-source software technology suitable for low-resource settings and underserved communities), aims to undertake a comprehensive mixed-methods research involving both qualitative and quantitative approaches to examine potential health impacts of COVID-19 on the Rohingya and host populations including the most vulnerable population groups (women and adolescent girls).

The consortium will explore potential gaps in COVID-19 responses on addressing SRH and MNCH issues and will assess whether deployment of digital interventions (a contact tracing and case monitoring app & an MNCH app) would reduce transmission and improve SRH and MNCH outcomes respectively in the Rohingya and host communities.

The consortium will work in close collaboration with government and other key stakeholders (UN agencies and other humanitarian actors) to develop and build evidence on successful approaches to controlling the virus's spread and improving SRH and MNCH outcomes. This project will provide much needed critical and timely evidence to stakeholders and policymakers on how the Rohingya and surrounding host communities perceives and understands COVID-19, to encourage self-reporting, identification of reported infections and or cases, as well as the religious and local, socio-cultural beliefs, stigma, which can act as barriers to timely support and care. Specifically, the research will investigate the impact of their beliefs around COVID-19 and also how this impacts on SRH and MNCH. Our research will have a particular focus on women and adolescent girls as they are affected disproportionately by any crisis. The project aims to assess the acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness of new digital interventions (contact tracing and case monitoring app & MNCH app) to address some immediate impacts of COVID-19 as well as medium/longer-term impacts with respect to SRH including MNCH.

**Research method:** Mixed Method Evaluation Research

**Donor:** International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

**Grant Amount:** CAD 735, 100