

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered stands beside COVID-19 patients undergoing treatment in Narayanganj

Bank provides treatment cost of patients admitted at SAJIDA Hospital Narayanganj

2 June 2020, Dhaka – In its most recent effort to support the nation during this global health crisis, Standard Chartered Bangladesh is working with Sajida Foundation to stand beside COVID-19 patients in Narayanganj.

The SAJIDA Hospital Narayanganj, operated by SAJIDA Foundation, has been converted into a COVID-19 isolation center, with a requisite supply of ICU facilities, ventilators, dialysis machines and PPE gear. The Bank's funds will go towards daily treatment cost of all COVID-19 patients kept in isolation at the hospital.

Narayanganj is considered a coronavirus epicentre and has recorded the highest COVID-19 positive patients after Dhaka. The city is one of the major industrial centers of the country and greatly contributes to the economy, employment, and export earnings. The region accounts for 55% of the country's total knitwear manufacturing.

Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO, Standard Chartered Bangladesh, said, "We are delighted to partner with Sajida Foundation in supporting communities from a high-risk area. We are focused on providing wide-ranging and effective COVID-19 support programmes to vulnerable communities, as we strive to continue to live our 'Here for good' values. With the public, private and the non-governmental sector all working in tandem to tackle the pandemic, I have every confidence we will emerge from this challenge together, stronger and more resilient than ever before."

Zahida Fizza Kabir, CEO, SAJIDA Foundation, said "Meaningful partnerships are crucial. This partnership with Standard Chartered Bank will enable us to extend our critical healthcare service in Narayanganj district. The COVID-19 crisis requires a united action in response and we will continue to engage all stakeholders to do so."

Prior to this, Standard Chartered has contributed USD 1.6 million to Red Cross and UNICEF programmes that are providing emergency relief to communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. The Bank is also collaborating with BRAC to deliver support packages to 25,000 people from 5000 low-income families, residing in locked-down areas. Standard Chartered has announced a broad range of support measures for its retail customers and businesses, including loan repayment holidays, fee waivers or cancellations and loan extension facilities. It has initiated a US\$1 billion global financing program for companies that provide goods and services to help the fight against COVID-19. It has also launched a US\$50 million fund aiding communities affected by the pandemic across its global footprint, including Bangladesh.

SAJIDA Foundation is one of the first responders to the COVID-19 crisis. The Foundation has served more than three million individuals through awareness raising, food and hygiene package distribution, agriculture value chain support, slum disinfection, portable handwashing device setup and PPE disbursement. SAJIDA's two hospitals located in COVID-19 hotspots have treated over 15,000 patients since March 2020. SAJIDA has also introduced an online COVID-19 symptom checker chatbot and dedicated hotline numbers to provide general and mental health consultation

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Standard Chartered

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SAJIDA Foundation

SAJIDA Foundation is a value-driven non-government organization established in 1993 by Mr. Syed Humayun Kabir with the aim to ensure health, happiness and dignity for all. SAJIDA embodies the principle of corporate philanthropy with 51% shareholding at Renata Limited, a leading pharmaceutical company. SAJIDA operates in 26 districts and serves six million clients through a diverse portfolio of financial products and services, multi-sectoral development programs including agriculture and strategically positioned social enterprises.