

Homemade

Face mask

by Afghan Women for Afghan Workers



**Produced at OPAWC's
Center for Women's Empowerment**

Phone: 0706399783 / 020 256 0097

Email: info@opawc.org / opawc99@gmail.com

Website: www.opawc.org



Help Afghan women make
FACE MASK
for Afghan roadside workers,
who “face starvation” if
COVID-19 clears the street

Hundreds of thousands of Afghan casual workers, street vendors and bus drivers, whose livelihood depend on few pennies they earn daily, face stark choice between staying home starving to death or venturing outside to find work, risking infection. Providing facemask for these workers would minimize the risk of infection for them as well as for the entire community.

Coronavirus pandemic in war-ravaged Afghanistan: deadlier than war

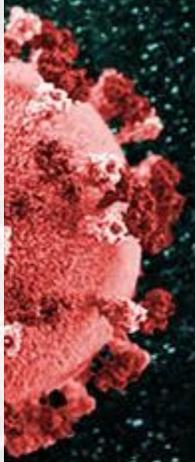
The Covid-19 touches everyone on the planet, but it doesn't affect everyone equally, and is painfully exposing the existing and persisting social disparities across the world, and let it be imagined in Afghanistan, where devastating inequality is mingled with injustice, corruption and war. Therefore, the impact is manifold and far perilous in Afghanistan than other countries.

While it requires aggressive lockdown measure to contain the spread of virus as applied by all countries, in Afghanistan it turns out to be not an easy choice for the overwhelmingly majority like casual laborers and street vendors whose survival depend on few pennies they earn daily. All health experts anticipate that unless serious containment measures are enforced and adhered to throughout the country as many as 25.6 million Afghans will be infected with the coronavirus, leading to thousands of deaths. Well, how to stop this human catastrophe when the residents of Afghanistan face stark choice between staying home starving to death or venturing outside to find work, risking infection?

More than half of Afghanistan's population lives under the poverty line. Even before the coronavirus pandemic spiraled, the UN and many other agencies projected 14 million people could be in crisis or face emergency levels of food insecurity through the winter. And the spring seemed to be not a happy season for poor Afghans when the outbreak of the coronavirus happened in late March. Border closures and export restrictions by Iran and Pakistan squeezed supply lines and pushing food prices upward in Afghanistan, raising fears that millions will famine.

Overwhelmed by abject poverty and financial strains, Wahidullah, an employee of Afghanistan National Statistic and Information Authority hanged himself in the basement of his house in Kabul on April 12 after returned empty-handed from a bank where he had gone to receive his salary. He has left five children behind.

Afghanistan's fragile health care system lacks the capacity to adequately test or track cases, which according to medical experts is an essential tool in identifying infections early on in order to isolate the patients and halt the spread of the disease. In addition to a shortage of tests, there is also a startling shortage of much-needed ventilators and trained staff to administer the use of the medical machines in Afghanistan. According to health officials, Afghanistan only has 300 ventilators available for the entire country.



Undoubtedly, Afghanistan battles uphill COVID-19 pandemic nearly with empty-handed and will face a massive human catastrophe if it is not helped in time. It is a call upon all nations, all individuals and organizations to extend their helping hands to local and gross root organizations like OPAWC, who are right now on the field helping the people in need.

Facemask Production at OPAWC's Center for Women's Empowerment

About OPAWC's Center for Women Empowerment

Since 2008, OPAWC has been running a learning center for Afghan women in Kabul, offering literacy classes as well as vocational trainings in tailoring, handicraft and embroidery. In 2019, a production section was established, where women after completing the training courses, are allowed to produce traditional Afghan dresses for sale.

- Number of girls and women: 400
- Number of girls in production: 50
- Number of sewing machines: 50

Facemask Production:

- Total Production: 200,000 masks
- Daily Production: 3,000 masks
- Production Costs: \$25,000

Items	Est. Costs
Facemask Fabric & Ear Loops	\$15,000
Printing facemask boxes	\$2,500
Logistic costs	\$7,500
Total Production Costs	\$25,000



The Center has four master trainers and designers who have years of experience in production



There are 50 young girls working in the production section of the Center

