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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Disaster

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Dear Editor

People began to become ill in late December 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, and the illness was revealed to be a kind of pneumonia with unusual signs and symptoms. It was eventually discovered as a novel coronavirus, a virus that causes widespread sickness in animals and birds. World Health Organization (WHO) named this new viral disease coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020. This novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreads rapidly, and there are hundreds of thousands of undiagnosed cases worldwide, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) (Centre for Disaster Philanthropy, 2020). Novel COVID-19 is one of many global hazards that threaten our existence. Life has unraveled faster than anyone could ever imagine, and the vulnerability continues to worsen worldwide.

The UN Secretary-General has called the current situation a humanitarian crisis, and he stated that there is a need to focus on people and the most vulnerable communities. The COVID-19 disaster has an extensive socio-economic impact on people's lives; there is a need to bring the solutions to prevent the spread of the disease first and respond to the existing problems among the vulnerable groups. However, the risk of a pandemic has been ignored by the concerned authorities across the globe. A few months ago, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, a joint initiative of the World Health Organization and the World Bank, released the report entitled "A World at Risk." The report warned about the highly lethal pandemic respiratory infection that could wipe out about 5% of the global economy and cause the loss of millions of lives across the globe (Mizutori, 2020).

The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis and one of the most significant challenges that the world has ever faced. Since the emergence of this disease in Wuhan, China, towards the end of 2019, the virus has kept spreading across the globe. Cases are rising every day, and countries are racing to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, limiting travel, quarantining, and restricting large gatherings. The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis because people are losing jobs daily. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the present COVID-19 epidemic could result in the loss of 195 million jobs (UNDP, 2020a). The United Nations reports predicted that about US\$220 billion of income losses are expected in developing countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic is projected to affect everyone; however, the most vulnerable groups include the poor, aged, and crippled (UNDP, 2020b). The International Labour Organization (ILO) has suggested a pillar policy response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Support for businesses, employment, and incomes; the economy and jobs;

worker protection during lockdowns; and fostering social dialogue are part of the integrated pillar policy.

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