

**Research Projects 2019**

**1. Implementation Research Focusing on Health System Strengthening in UNICEF Supported Areas in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Dr. Yameen Mazumder, Project Implementation Specialist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: Jan 2019 - Sept 2019

Objective:

- Understand the key implementation challenges/barriers with the implementation of MNCH programme related activities for the FDMNs in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
- Explore solutions to overcome the challenges/barriers to propose a policy guideline and to adapt and modify the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) for emergency setting.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: UNICEF NY

Partner: UNICEF Bangladesh

**2. The Ethics of Health Policy Experiments: A Global Framework for Design and Oversight**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Mrittika Barua, Sr. Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: Oct 2017 - Dec 2020

Objective:

- To test and refine 'deliberative interviews,' a cognitive qualitative interview technique based on deliberation to determine its applicability in designing a framework that examines ethical aspects of health policy experiments;
- To assess if deliberative interviews are socially and culturally acceptable in the four study countries;

- To identify if a higher knowledge level on health issues can be reached by using the deliberative interview style, which takes into account major, widely-known aspects of a particular health theme and has both interviewer and interviewee engage actively in the interview.

Methodology: Mixed-method

Donor:

- Wellcome Trust, UK;
- University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Partners:

- University of Heidelberg, Germany;
- T.H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health;
- School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Tanzania

### **3. Assessing BRAC's Innovative Health Loans in Protecting the Poor against Health and Asset Vulnerability in Bangladesh**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Coordinator: Muhammed Nazmul Islam, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: Jul 2018 - November 2019

Objective:

- Identify demand and supply side barriers of the standard MTL program and to improve the program by revising the product design and developing a decentralized implementation protocol that allows both better access for vulnerable clients and a better monitoring system for BRAC;
- Evaluate whether the revised product MTL+ generates a measurable increase in overall uptakes, equitable inclusiveness into the program, formal healthcare utilization, and reduction in out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures net of loan;
- Evaluate the implementation process to disentangle the differences in uptakes of MTL and MTL+ due to product design from the differences in implementation protocol.
- Better understand the challenges for scale-up.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)

Partners:

- BRAC Microfinance
- University of Heidelberg, Germany

#### **4. Baseline and End-Line Survey to Measure Changes and Outcomes that result from the Entertainment Education (EE) Campaign on Selected Adolescent Related KAP Areas with Focus on Child Marriage**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Muhammad Nazmul Islam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: March 2017 - November 2020

Objective:

- To assess the effects of edutainment campaigns on behavior related to different adolescent development issues including child marriage,
- To identify whether the campaign caused the effects on adolescents and their caregivers over the period of campaign.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UNICEF, Bangladesh

Partner: Asiatic Marketing Communication Limited

#### **5. Health, Housing, and Hygiene (HHH) in Bangladesh (PHASE II)**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Mushfiqur Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: November 2018- September 2019

Objective:

To reduce the risk of bacterial and parasitic infection among children under the age of five through flooring reconstruction in homes that currently have dirt/mud floors.

Methodology: Mixed method

Partner: Association of Development for Economic and Social Help (ADESH)

Donor: ARCHIVE Global

#### **6. Partnership to Ensure the Sustainability of a Public Health Palliative Care Project in Bangladesh through Community Theatre- A follow on**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;

International PI: Shahaduz Zaman, Senior Lecturer at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), UK

Focal: Sayema Akter, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: November 2017 - April 2019

Objective:

- To expand the project activity to new user communities and audiences namely the peri-urban and rural communities of Bangladesh;
- To conduct an exploratory study in the peri-urban and rural community to compare the ideas about death, dying and end of life care that has emerged from the earlier research conducted in the urban slums and use the results for theatre script development;
- To adopt the theatre script already developed for urban poor communities to fit with the new peri-urban and rural community;
- To conduct interactive public engagement through theatre to sensitize the peri-urban and rural community on the end-of-life care issues;
- To train interested community volunteers on the basics of home-based end of life care;
- To develop a comprehensive community engagement strategy for public health palliative care in resource-poor settings through performing arts.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: AHRC-MRC

Partners:

- Brighton Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex;
- University of Glasgow;
- University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University;
- BRAC University;
- BRAC

## **7. Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication (STRIPE)**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Dr. Yameen Mazumder, Project Implementation Specialist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Humayra Binte Anwar, Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: April 2018 - December 2022

Objectives:

- Map knowledge content from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI);
- Package GPEI knowledge assets for a global health course and training materials on implementation science;
- Validate GPEI-IS course, MOOC and training materials for the clinic;
- Disseminate GPEI-IS knowledge products, courses, IS clinics to different targeted audiences.
- Track impact of GPEI-IS knowledge product over time.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

## **8. A Media Experiment to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh**

PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Nina Buchmann, PhD candidate, Stanford University; Paula Lopez-Pena, Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University

Focal: Shakil Rahman Ayan, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: June 2019 - April 2022

Objective:

- To understand the causal pathways and mechanisms of intimate partner violence through a survey, vignette experiment and a lab-in-the-field experiment.
- To design an evidence informed media campaign to reduce intimate partner violence and implement it through an RCT to evaluate the efficacy of addressing social norms in reducing intimate partner

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor:

- South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC);
- The World Bank;
- Grand Challenges Canada;
- The National Sciences Foundation

Partner: N/A

## **9. Old Age Allowance**

PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI:

- Viola Asri;

- Kumar Biswas;
- Sebastian Fehrer;
- Urs Fischbacher;
- Katharina Michaelowa.

Focal:

- Viola Asri;
- Kumar Biswas.

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2020

Objective:

To make the selection of beneficiaries more pro-poor by enabling the local government representatives to apply the eligibility criteria prescribed by the national government and make the selection based on the provided data on the target group.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor:

- University of Zurich, Switzerland;
- Thurgau Economic Research Institute;
- University of Konstanz, Germany.

Partners:

- Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh;
- ARCED Foundation.

### **10. Behavioral Diagnostic to Improve Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Nutrition Outcomes in Bangladesh: Qualitative Data Collection Activities**

PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Sayema Akter, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: September 2019 - December 2019

Objective:

- To gain a holistic understanding of the social and behavioral barriers that impede proper feeding practices;
- Identify potential areas of intervention that can lead to sustained behavior change related to consumption of appropriate and diverse food items within the targeted demographic groups.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: The World Bank

Partner: BRAC

### **11. Process Evaluation Protocol of the Integration and Implementation of Verbal Autopsy in the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of Bangladesh**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Dr. Yameen Mazumder, Senior Project Specialist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Saima Mehjabeen, Sr. Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: October 2019 - January 2020

Objective:

- To explore whether VA activities have been implemented as intended;
- Assess the fidelity of the implementation process, identify the underlying reasons for working and what not and recommend potential solutions to improve the VA process further and understand the distribution of causes of reported deaths and its validity for further scale-up of VA across the country.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Vital Strategies

Partner: Vital Strategies

### **12. Implementation Research on Birth and Death Registration Process in Bangladesh with a special focus on the Kaliganj Model**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Dr. Yameen Mazumder, Senior Project Specialist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Saima Mehjabeen, Sr. Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: May 2019 - October 2019

Objective:

- To explore critical implementation drivers and barriers of the birth and death registration system in Bangladesh;
- Identify potential solutions to overcome the barriers, especially focusing on the Kaliganj model, to ensure universal birth and death registration within 45 days of the event.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UNICEF Bangladesh

Partner: UNICEF Bangladesh

### **13. A Case Study on Universal Health Coverage- Global Health Security- Health Promotion Triangle: Bangladesh**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Mrittika Barua, Sr. Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: 1 March 2019 - 31 December 2019

Objective:

- To explore the characteristics of UHC, HS, and HP in Bangladesh with respect to existing policy and practices, focal agencies, key actors, synergies in the triangle, and identify gaps which needs attention;
- To explore the perceptions and experiences of the relevant stakeholders in policy and practice regarding the UHC, HS and HP triangle, both when these are aligned ('synergies') and not aligned ('fragmentation'), underlying causes of such alignment (or 'fragmentation'), and identify challenges of overcoming these gaps to build synergy;
- To arrive at a consensus on these issues and to suggest a way forward towards the development of a unified health system which is people centred, equitable, financially protected and resilient to infectious disease threats and AMR.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Wellcome Trust

Partner: University of Heidelberg, Germany

### **14. Climate Change, Migration and Health Systems Resilience in Haiti and Bangladesh (ClimHB)**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Dr. Mowtushi Matin, Sr. Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: June 2019 - December 2022

Objective:



To analyse the capacities and vulnerabilities of health systems in Haiti and Bangladesh, through the lens of climate change-induced migration flows.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor:

- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Institut De Recherche Pour LE Développement (IRD)

Partner: CEPED – IRD

### **15. Million Cool Roofs Challenge**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal/Coordinator:

- Muhammed Nazmul Islam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Md. Shihab Ad Din, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: July 2019 - October 2021.

Objective:

To improve access to sustainable cooling through the rapid scaling of cool roofs in countries with large numbers of people facing heat stress risks.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donors:

- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD);
- France Nesta Enterprise Ltd.

Partner: Department of Architecture, BRAC University

### **16. Embedded Implementation Research on Health System Strengthening for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) programme in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Co-PI: Dr Yameen Mazumder, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Coordinator: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: January 2019 - September 2019.

Objective:

A comprehensive understanding of the existing implementation challenges of MNCH programs among Rohingya refugees as well as solutions that can help policymakers to reshape and streamline assistance for FDMNs until repatriation occurs.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: UNICEF

Partner: UNICEF

### **17. Assessing the Preventive Chemotherapy coverage provided by a Comprehensive Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) control Project by BRAC in Syedpur, Bangladesh**

PI: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Advisor: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Coordinator: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: January 2019 - April 2019

Objective:

To assess the preventive chemotherapy coverage provided by a Comprehensive Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) control Project by BRAC in Syedpur, Bangladesh.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: BRAC

Partner: BRAC