

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (CGSRHR)

Established in 2008, The Centre aims to promote a broader understanding of gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh and in the region through research, policy, advocacy and training activities. Using both academic and action-based research, the Centre generates knowledge and translates it into advocacy-based action for social change. Research topics under the Centre include HIV/AIDS, reproductive health service, gender-based violence, child marriage, digital tools for SRHR, bodily rights and behaviour change communication.

To promote SRHR, the Centre organises and conducts short trainings and courses that aim to stimulate critical thinking and reflections among practitioners. The Centre also facilitates advocacy efforts with various partners and networks to bring about greater awareness on relevant areas of SRHR work. Recent advocacy efforts have addressed SRHR and law, masculinity and men's sexual health, and rights-based issues of minorities and disadvantaged communities.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

- EXPLORING THE OUTCOMES, SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF THE SOFT SKILL TRAINING COMPONENT OF BRAC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SDP)

PI: Dr Farzana A. Misha, Assistant Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Muhammad Riaz Hossain, Assistant Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: January 2020- July 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand perceptions of beneficiaries and peer leaders regarding the soft skill training programme, exploring the effect of soft skills training programme on beneficiaries; explore the successes and challenges of the soft skill training programme to generate relevant recommendations for programme strengthening and scale up.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

- DOCUMENTARIES ON CONSENT AND SKIN COLOUR

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: January 2020 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To increase knowledge and conceptual clarity among young people on issues of consent and choice in the context of SRHR; to sensitised university students and young people on issues of choice in the context of early marriage, relationships, marital rape and cybercrimes; to explore the common perception of colorism in Bangladesh and collect narratives of those who have been discriminated against for darker skin tone; to examine the realities of how colorism can deeply affect all aspects of peoples' lives and the decision they make or opportunities they are given; to raise awareness regarding this social injustice which is otherwise 'normalised' in the society.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: International Republican Institute (IRI)

- RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE: BRAC'S EXPERIENCE AS A KEY PLAYER ON POST RANA PLAZA DISASTER

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Mrinmoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Nicholas Turzo Mandol, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Raafat Hassan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Nosin Nahian, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February 2020 - October 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Holistic Support Package for Rana Plaza survivors, where they supported 50 survivors; assistance and support to the victims of Rana Plaza collapse and their families, where they supported 280 survivors; ensure long-term medical services and post-award livelihood support for 450 victims of Rana Plaza tragedy; to document BRAC's performance post Rana Plaza disaster and illustrate the ongoing physical, psychological and socio-economic conditions of the survivors.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC

- **GENDER AND ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE (GAGE)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI:

- Maheen Sultan, Head, Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

Coordinated by:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Md. Sajib Rana, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: March 2020 - November 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To address the transformative processes of adolescents in the face of discriminatory social norms and institutional barriers by generating data of their capabilities, changing the context of early adolescence through to adulthood and focusing on the dynamic interactions that shape adolescents' outcomes and life experiences in their world.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI).

Partner: Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

- **IMPACT EVALUATION DESIGN FOR EVALUATION OF ADOLESCENT STUDENT PROGRAMME (BANGLADESH)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Maheen Sultan, Head, Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2020 – December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Evaluate the impact of various components of the Adolescent Student Programme (ASP) intervention at the school level, with the overall aim to improve adolescent well-being; to equip the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) with an evidence-based and cost-effective model before scaling-up

the ASP intervention; to understand the knowledge, perceptions, practices, challenges and coping mechanisms of adolescent boys and girls living in low-income settlements during the pandemic.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

Partners:

- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University;
- Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

- A BASELINE STUDY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES (WGWDs) FACING VIOLENCE IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI and Focal:

- Md. Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Statistician, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Fatema Akter Bonny, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2020 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To explore the knowledge & awareness about SRHR issues, level of violence experienced by the women & girls with disabilities (WGWDs); to explore the coping strategies adopted by women & girls with disabilities; identify the gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services, and to recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services.

Donor: UN Women funded through Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Methodology: Mixed method

Partners:

- The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Bangladesh.
- BRAC JPGSPH.

- **SUSTAINABILITY OF TELECOMMUNICATION MODEL IN SUPPORT OF PROMOTING PLAY BASED LEARNING AMONG CHILDREN**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Anis Pervez, Senior Technical Advisor, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Mrinimoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Khandakar Mohymeen Layes, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2020 - November 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Understand the Sustainability of the telecommunication model for play-based learning.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **DOCUMENTING INTEGRATION OF ECD WITH MENTAL HEALTH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Dr Anis Pervez, Senior Technical Advisor, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Mrinimoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Khandakar Mohymeen Layes, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2020 - February 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To document the process of integration of mental health into play-based model.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (CoE-HS&UHC)

Established in 2012, the Centre works with key partners and stakeholders in the government, private and NGO sectors to facilitate the efforts to accelerate evidence-informed, equitable and sustainable action towards Urban Health Coverage (UHC). As part of its core activities, the Centre works to generate essential evidence to further the establishment of UHC in Bangladesh; these include policy briefs and systematic reviews of key determinants of UHC including workforce, management, and information systems. Frameworks are produced on key functions of insurance systems related to provider networks, service packages, premiums, benefits and claims. Implementing research on UHC initiatives is also conducted with real-time monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Centre also develops core competencies around UHC through various accredited training programmes and short courses. These programmes are held with key implementing institutions of UHC in Bangladesh. Advocacy is another major core activity of the Centre, and is facilitated through forums, learning and research dissemination with local and global partners. National and international workshops, seminars and dialogues are also held focusing on key UHC issues.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

- **SKILLS DEMAND ANALYSIS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN BANGLADESH**

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

Co-PI: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2020 - Ongoing

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective: To explore the emerging employment opportunities in the health care sector given the current shortage of allied health care workers (beside doctors and nurses) in the formal system following COVID-19 pandemic and a major paradigm shift towards demand for home-based palliative/rehabilitative/disability/elderly care services.

Methodology: Mixed Method

Donor and Partner: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

- **ASSESSMENT OF POST-CRASH CARE SYSTEM FOLLOWING ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS
IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH**

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

Co-PI: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2020 – Ongoing

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective: To assess the current pre-hospital (by-stander and ambulance) and hospital based post-crash care services in order to get a holistic picture of the post-crash system existing in Bangladesh; to improve the post-crash system in the country so that RTC mortality and morbidity are reduced.

Methodology: Cross-sectional study and Qualitative method

Donor and Partner: The World Bank

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH (CUEH)

Established in 2013, with the focus on health equity challenges of the urban poor, particularly on urban health governance; the Centre works in inter-sectoral research, training, policy and results-based action. The Centre motivates evidence-based dialogue and decision-making, and supports partnerships and networking among government policymakers, private and public service providers, researchers and development partners.

The key areas of the Centre's work include training and capacity development to enhance skills and competencies for better urban health governance, inter-sectoral action, needs and impact assessments as well as programme design, implementation and evaluation. Research at the Centre focuses on urban health governance, community engagement and accountability, and facility mapping and innovations in service delivery models for the urban poor. With broad participation of relevant sectors (health, housing, transport, etc.) and stakeholders (development partners, local government, NGOs, etc.), the Centre applies an evidence-based approach to building consensus, aligning resources and coordinating action towards better governance practices.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

- **COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE URBAN HEALTH SYSTEMS (CHORUS)**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Baby Naznin, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: May 2020 - April 2026

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Objective: To build a resilient and responsive urban health system to the existing challenges e.g. double burden of communicable & non-communicable diseases, dominance of NGO sector, low health service coverage for marginalised urban people, through capacity building and research uptakes including sectors beyond health and enabling linkages between multiple government, NGO and private providers whilst ensuring accountability to urban residents, particularly the poor.

Methodology: Desk Review, Quantitative and Qualitative methods, Participatory Research, RCT and Retrospective Study.

Donor: DFID (RPC), UK

Partners:

- Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development;

- University of Leeds;
- University of York;
- ARK Foundation, Bangladesh;
- HERD International, Nepal;
- University of Nigeria;
- University of Ghana.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP (CoE-SISU)

Established in 2016, the main objective of the CoE-SISU is to timely generate and embed knowledge related to healthcare practice. The Centre aims to bridge gaps to allow successful scaling up and implementation of interventions by focusing on testing different methodologies, generating evidence-based interventions and innovations, and translating them into standard protocols for policy-makers in Bangladesh.

Research conducted at the Centre reviews potential evidence of successful interventions that can showcase the application of science of implementation for scaling-up. Guidelines and policy briefs are produced for policymakers on implementation of various health programmes and scale-up in Bangladesh. Advocacy efforts include the development of communication materials to showcase successfully implemented or scaled up programmes. Training and short courses are offered under the Centre on implementation research and, monitoring and evaluation to build capacity of development professionals, implementers, researchers and government officials.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

- **4TH HEALTH POPULATION AND NUTRITION SECTOR PROGRAMME: MID-TERM REVIEW (MTR) 2020**

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

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

Focal: Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February 2020 - April 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: To understand the perception of the users on health service utilisation from different tiers of the health system and constraints faced in accessing services, especially the rural and urban poor families, including hard to reach areas; to elicit views of the providers at different levels, including the frontline workers on availability and coverage of services, facility readiness including required HR and supplies, challenges faced on the ground and recommendations for improvement; to gather input from other stakeholders who are not direct users or providers but have a key role for the programme implementation to understand relevant issues and opportunities for improvements; to have discussions with the civil society including the NGOs, private sector and HNP experts in the country including researchers, academics and relevant people from other sectors on key challenges prevailing in the health sector, and if any course correction in the 4th HPNSP will be necessary to address the prevailing issues more effectively.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: World Bank

- **IMPLEMENTATION FIDELITY OF TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PROGRAMME IN DETECTING CHILDREN WITH TB**

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

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

Focal:

- Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: May 2020 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: To investigate the implementation fidelity and the bottlenecks to identify Child-TB in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Global Fund

Partner: BRAC

- **EFFECTS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE AND EDUCATION ON HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**

PI:

- Erica Field, Professor of Economics and Global Health, Duke University;
- Kate Vyborny, Associate Director, DevLab, Duke University;
- Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Nina Buchmann, PhD Candidate, Economics, Stanford University;
- Rachel Glennerster, Chief Economist, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK;
- Shahana Nazneen, Consultant, Innovations for Poverty Action;
- Xiao Yu Wang; Assistant Professor Economics, Duke University; Chief Economist, CRI.

Coordinator: Fatema Mohammad, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2020 - August 2022

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: Assess the impact of increased marriage age and/or human capital on reproductive health, Women's long-term physical and psychological well-being, child health; and assess potential channels through which marriage age and/or human capital influence maternal and child health.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: National institutes of health, USA

Partner: Duke University

- **VALIDATION OF FINGER IMAGE: A MIXED-METHOD STUDY**

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

Focal:

- Mushfiqur Rahman, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.
- Saima Mehjabeen, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2020 - October 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: To measure the accuracy of finger image testing among children under five and explore the feasibility of the implementation in specific urban slums.

Methodology: Embedded mixed-method approach

Donor: Simprints Technology Limited

- **DEVELOPING AND TESTING A RISK STRATIFICATION APPROACH SCREENING USING GUIDELINES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY (DR) IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES IN BANGLADESH**

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

Co-I:

- Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ipsita Sutradhar, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Ipsita Sutradhar, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2020 - June 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: Develop and validate a simple DR risk stratification score and tool in the Bangladeshi population with diabetes; pilot the use of the DR risk stratification approach for targeted screening in a real-world clinical setting in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Mixed-method

Donor: Fred Hollows Foundation Australia

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND NUTRITION (CNCDN)

Established in 2017, the Centre aims to reduce mortality and complications related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition in Bangladesh through prevention, treatment and control. The Centre conducts research and works with the government of Bangladesh to develop guidelines for prevention, treatment and control, and perform evidence-based advocacy around NCDs and malnutrition.

Research at the Centre includes identifying evidence-based practices in clinical and population settings, implementing health system research to optimise delivery of interventions, and conducting economic evaluation of novel and evidence-based interventions. Health care providers are trained on risk stratification for NCDs through prevention and management. The Centre also strengthens capacity of programme managers and policy makers on evidence-based policy and interventions for prevention and control. To further promote and advocate for the prevention, treatment and control of NCDs and malnutrition, and encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles, the Centre also develops communication materials based on their research.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

- DELIVERY OF TRAINING ON WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION BANGLADESH PACKAGE OF ESSENTIAL NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INTERVENTIONS (PEN) FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHASE II)

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Rina Rani Paul, Consultant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Nushrat Jahan Urmey, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: June 2020 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To increase the capacity and skills of health care providers (doctors/nurses/paramedics) in Cox's Bazar district on the implementation of PEN for primary health care in low resource settings, using a team-based approach; to strengthen the capacity of community health volunteer supervisors in Cox's Bazar district on healthy lifestyle promotion related to risk factors for NCDs.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh.

Partners:

- Non-Communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
- Community Health Working Group.

- **DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED NUTRITION MESSAGES FOR SCHOOLS**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Professor Malay Mridha, Director, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Abu Mohammad Shamim, Associate Scientist;
- Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Barnali Chakraborty, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: August 2020 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCND)

Objective: The study aims to develop integrated nutrition messages for the school children (pre-primary to grade 10) using the cover pages of the school textbooks.

Methodology: Mixed methods

Donor: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- **ASSESSMENT OF THE FOOD SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EDIBLE OIL TRANSPORTED AND SOLD IN DRUMS**

PI: Abu Ahmed Shamim, Associate Scientist, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2020 - May 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCND)

Objective: To quantitatively assess the food safety of different edible oil brands sold in drums and bottles and ascertain value/supply chain factors (handling, storage, environmental) associated with food safety risk.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donors: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Partners: Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Dhaka University.

HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH HUB

The rise of armed conflict, forced displacement, environmental disasters and other humanitarian crises is a direct result of natural hazards and major disease outbreaks. This has not only led to the increase of sufferings of hundreds of millions of lives but now more so than ever in history, more people are facing public health issues.

As of August 2017, more than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in need of humanitarian assistance have migrated to Bangladesh. In order to improve their access to public health aid, multiple national and international organisations are tirelessly working across all camps in Cox's Bazar.

Sharing the same vision since 2018, BRAC JPGSPH continues to conduct research studies on Rohingya refugees across 3 of its Centres of Excellence in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; in efforts to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve well-being of the Rohingya community.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2020

- **DESIGNING A STUDY ON MENSTRUAL REGULATION AND POST-ABORTION CARE AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other researchers:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md. Tahmid Hasan, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ayanti Barua, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: July 2020 - March 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To prepare the study design, protocol and data collection instruments for a study on menstrual regulation and post-abortion care among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh; to provide much-needed evidence on Rohingya women's access to and use of menstrual regulation (MR) and post-abortion care services in refugee camps in Bangladesh to inform policies and programmes to improve their access to these services.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Guttmacher Institute (USA)

Partners:

- Guttmacher Institute (USA)
- Association for the Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA)

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES IN COX'S BAZAR: MITIGATING RISKS AND PROMOTING GENDER, GOVERNANCE AND LOCALISATION OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES IN COVID-19 ERA

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co PI:

- Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH
- Manzoor Hasan OBE, Executive Director, Center for Peace and Justice, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Habiba Nowrose, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: August 2020 - July 2023

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: The overall objective of the recipient in relation to the project is to provide critical evidence to influence policies and interventions that will promote tolerance and peace building, encourage civic engagement and facilitate psycho-social wellbeing; raise awareness and preparedness around COVID-19 pandemic in Rohingya camp and host communities by undertaking a rapid assessment of the COVID-19 context through a short baseline and end line survey; Help mitigate the safety and security risks of MVG and other vulnerable groups in the post COVID-19 period through: generation of in-depth evidence on the challenges around safety and security, social cohesion and psychological well-being faced by women, adolescents, youth and other MVGs in refugee and host communities; Enhance constructive civic engagement, social cohesion and gender sensitivity among and between the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar; Widen dissemination of Research findings through meetings and dialogues with government representatives, volunteers, CBOs, local NGOs and UN agencies to share emerging findings and recommendations using online offline platforms.

Methodology: Qualitative and Quantitative

Donor: International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Partner: Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ)

- **SPA II END-LINE SURVEY**

PI: Dr Nepal C Dey, Adjunct Professor, BRAC University;

Researchers:

- Fouzia Khanam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Mahmood Parvez, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tidib Roy,
- Md. Iftikhar Ul Karim,
- Sorif Hossain, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2020 - March 2021

Objective: Determine the percentage of support people who are following at least 60% of preventive measures of COVID-19 (as per DGHS guideline); Assess the percentage of vulnerable households that are better prepared to mitigate disaster risk and reduce damages and losses through BRAC led disaster risk reduction and preparedness support.

Methodology: Mixed Methodology

Donor: BRAC

Partner:

- BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University;
- BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED).

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To promote SRHR, the Centre organises and conducts short trainings and courses that aim to stimulate critical thinking and reflections among practitioners. The Centre also facilitates advocacy efforts with various partners and networks to bring about greater awareness on relevant areas of SRHR work. Recent advocacy efforts have addressed SRHR and law, masculinity and men's sexual health, and rights-based issues of minorities and disadvantaged communities.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

- **RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW (RHRN)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Kuhel Islam, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tasfiyah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Rituja Shome, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2017 - October 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To create a world where everyone is able to access quality and youth-friendly health services. To ensure that no one is afraid to openly express who they are and who they love

Methodology: Evidence-based Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

Donor: Rutgers

Partners:

- BRAC Education Programme, BRAC
- RHSTEP
- Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)
- Naripokkho
- SERAC-Bangladesh
- Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB)

- Oboyob
- BLAST
- United for Body Rights (UBR) Alliance
- Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
- Dance4Life
- ARROW
- HiVOS

- **WHERE DO THEY GO? DOCUMENTARY ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SRHR SERVICES FOR SINGLE WORKING WOMEN IN URBAN BANGLADESH**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: July 2018 - February 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: This documentary aims at breaking the silence and knowledge gap around the SRHR needs of single/unmarried young women in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Share-Net International

Partner: Bohnishikha-Unlearn Gender

- **STRENGTHENING VOICES AND CAPACITIES FOR ADDRESSING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE WITH BLAST**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: November 2018 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To address the overarching goal of reducing gender-based violence (GBV) prevalent in Bangladesh's society; to address the erosion of gender objectives within development, and in the current context of shrinking civic space.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (CREA)

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

- **A STUDY OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Irin Akhter, Deputy Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: December 2018 - May 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand SRHR needs, knowledge about SRHR, SRH sufferings, perception around sex and sexuality and barriers in accessing SRH services for PWDs in Bangladesh through primary research; secondary review of existing interventions and/or services relevant to SRHR of PWDs, identify gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services and recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services; review existing laws and policies relevant to SRHR and disability in Bangladesh and explore barriers to the implementation of laws and policies and recommend strategies for improvement.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of Netherlands

Partner:

- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

- **MALE YOUTH AND THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) IN BANGLADESH: A MIXED-METHODS NATIONWIDE STUDY**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinated by: Dr Farzana A. Misha, Assistant Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

Qualitative Lead: Subas Chandra Biswas, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: December 2018 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To explore the SRH needs of male youth (aged 15-24) in Bangladesh by exploring existing SRH interventions; identify the gaps and challenges to improve SRH interventions and/or services; identify the barriers of implementation and recommendations for policy advocacy.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands

- **PROMOTING RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT (PRITIE)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Ashfique Rizwan, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tasfiah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 – September 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To address discriminatory laws, policies and practices related to marriage and sexual violence in the context of Bangladesh and international human rights standards; to create platforms for university students and young professionals in the project area to express their views and experiences on their freedom to express, choose, and consent to matters related to their own lives, and strengthen their knowledge and understanding and increase their participation in ensuring their rights; to enhance the capacity of service providers on SRHR.

Methodology: Capacity Strengthening and Advocacy

Donor: Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

- **MATERNAL MORTALITY AND EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE (EMOC) FACILITIES IN BRAC HEALTH NUTRITION POPULATION PROGRAMME (HNPP) AREAS IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 - Ongoing

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To identify the areas with high maternal deaths in BRAC health, nutrition and population programme (HNPP) areas in Bangladesh; to examine the density of Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) facilities in BRAC HNPP areas across Bangladesh; to explore knowledge, perception, practice, barrier and challenges in the communities with high MMR in Bangladesh, in access to formal healthcare facilities for utilisation of antenatal, delivery and postnatal care.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Partner: BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

- **MIGRATION PASSAGES AND SRH NEEDS OF RURAL TO URBAN MIGRANT WOMEN IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Syeda Seama Mowri, Senior Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 - February 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand access to information and services that meet the sexual and reproductive healthcare needs of rural-urban migrant women in Dhaka; to understand the push-pull factors that contributed to the decision to migrate.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Georgetown University

Partner: Georgetown University

- **SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORING THE LIVED REALITIES OF BRAC SDP GRADUATES THROUGH PHOTO NARRATIVE**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: September 2019 - August 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To explore the experiences of women in non-conventional trade, transgender individuals and persons with disabilities after graduation from SDP training programmes; to understand their need for support after graduation in order to ensure a sustainable social inclusion; to understand experiences of SDP graduates during COVID-19 pandemic through follow up phone interviews.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

Partner: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

- **EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF COLLECTING A CORE SET OF INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICES AND OUTCOMES IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS**

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nadia Farnaz, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: September 2019 - April 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To assess the feasibility of collecting data on a core set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating SRMNCAH in settings affected by humanitarian crises.

Methodology: Mixed Methods

Partners: Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa (Canada); Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants (USA)

Donor: World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

- **COUNTERING BACKLASH AND RECLAIMING GENDER JUSTICE**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

- Aisha Siddika, Senior Researcher, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2019 - 2024

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Understanding the backlash against women's rights and gender justice; addressing the erosion of gender agendas, their co-option and its stereotyping effects; advancing new opportunities for women's movements and rights defenders to reclaim gender justice; enhance the understanding and capacities needed – and identify opportunities – for women's rights organisations and other gender justice defenders.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Partner: Leading institute - Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Partner countries/ regions - India, Brazil, UK, Kenya, Uganda and Middle East regions.

- **CAPTURING BEST PRACTICES OF BRAC'S ENGAGING MEN (EMB) PROJECT**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2019 - May 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Capture and document evidence/learnings and best practices of successful and unsuccessful strategies and approaches (what has worked best and what has not worked) used for mobilising men and boys in support of gender equality.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC

Partner: BRAC GJD, CEP & IDP

- **A MIXED-METHODS CLUSTER RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF BIOMETRICALLY ENABLED MHEALTH SYSTEM OF BRAC COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME**

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co- PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Reserch and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Focal person: Adrita Kaiser, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2019 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To evaluate the impact of a biometrically enabled mHealth (Simprints) system on selected maternal and child health outcomes in 36 districts of Bangladesh; to examine the cost-effectiveness of the biometrically enabled mHealth system in improving maternal and child health outcomes in the 36 selected districts. In addition, to determine whether benefits exceed costs (cost-benefit analysis); to explore, if the “Simprints” system contributes to an efficiency gain in overall management of health care and Management Information System (MIS) in providing maternal and child health services in 36 districts of Bangladesh; to explore perceptions and understandings of the beneficiaries about potential benefits (if there is any) of the biometrically enabled mHealth system.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Simprint; BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Partner: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

- **MOBILISING FOR A RESEARCH REVOLUTION TO ENSURE LGBTIQ INCLUSION IN ASIA: A HIGH-IMPACT, TRANSFORMATIVE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (MFARR-ASIA)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH; Professor Peter A. Newman, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

Co-PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH; Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH; Md. Maruf Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Md. Maruf Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: November 2019 – March 2024

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To generate a shared understanding of characteristics and priorities of LGBTIQ inclusion in six sectors: education, employment, family, violence/security, health and political participation; to measure and monitor LGBTIQ inclusion in four countries (India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Hong Kong) over time; to identify model programs and initiatives, and good practices to support LGBTIQ inclusion; to increase access to and use of knowledge by community-based organisation (CBO) and intergovernmental organisation (IGO) partners through innovative knowledge mobilisation, including participatory video.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Partners:

- Oboyob: Diversity Circle
- Bandhu Social Welfare Society

- **BRAC - DISRUPTING CROSS BORDER TRAFFICKING NETWORKS IN JASHORE,
BANGLADESH**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Sophia Kaufman, Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Focal: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: November 2019 - April 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To conduct formative research during inception to understand the gaps and barriers that might inhibit effective CBT programming in Jashore;

- To conduct operational research (in close coordination with monitoring teams and the digital monitoring system) to understand how and why the project is able to achieve objectives or not, and inform fast adaptations and improvements on how to move to scale effectively;
- To conduct baseline and end line surveys and evaluation reports to understand project performance against the project results framework.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), UK

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (CoE-HS&UHC)

Established in 2012, the Centre works with key partners and stakeholders in the government, private and NGO sectors to facilitate the efforts to accelerate evidence-informed, equitable and sustainable action towards Urban Health Coverage (UHC). As part of its core activities, the Centre works to generate essential evidence to further the establishment of UHC in Bangladesh; these include policy briefs and systematic reviews of key determinants of UHC including workforce, management, and information systems. Frameworks are produced on key functions of insurance systems related to provider networks, service packages, premiums, benefits and claims. Implementing research on UHC initiatives is also conducted with real-time monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Centre also develops core competencies around UHC through various accredited training programmes and short courses. These programmes are held with key implementing institutions of UHC in Bangladesh. Advocacy is another major core activity of the Centre, and is facilitated through forums, learning and research dissemination with local and global partners. National and international workshops, seminars and dialogues are also held focusing on key UHC issues.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

- **TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND ADVANCING UHC AGENDA IN BANGLADESH: THE ROLE OF FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS IN IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

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

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: August 2017 - August 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective: To explore practices that are related to the delivery of responsive, equitable and quality services by the health care providers and managers at the PHC levels.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Partners:

- School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), University of London;
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom

- **A GLOBAL SOCIAL SCIENCES NETWORK FOR INFECTIOUS THREATS AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (SONAR-GLOBAL)**

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

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - December 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective: Develop an open-access platform to support the Sonar-Global activities and to share them broadly; adapt, test, and evaluate vulnerability assessment tools on the ground and engagement models to facilitate collaboration across multiple stakeholders; create, pilot and evaluate curricula for training social scientists in preparedness and response to infectious threats and through curricular development and piloting social science knowledge of infectious threats among non-social sciences actors.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme

Partners:

- Institut Pasteur (IP);
- Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD);
- Stichting Nederlands Instituut Voor Onderzoek Van De Gezondheidszorg (NIVEL);
- Medical University of Vienna (MUW);
- Mahidol University;
- Public Health Centre of the MoH of Ukraine;
- University College London (UCL);
- Makerere University (MU);
- Centre Regional De Recherche Et De Formation A La Prise En Charge Clinique Du Vih Sida et Maladies Associees de Dakar (CRCF);
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS);
- CENSIS;
- Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU);
- University of Malta (UM);
- University of Ljubljani.

- **LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: EXPLORING THE HEALTHCARE-SEEKING BEHAVIOR OF FLOATING POPULATION/STREET DWELLERS IN DHAKA CITY, BANGLADESH: A PILOT STUDY**

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

Co-PI:

- Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator:

- Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH
- Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - June 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective:

- To explore the scenario regarding health care seeking behaviour and available health care services;
- To identify gaps at the policy and programme levels for achieving universal health coverage in Bangladesh by 2030 for the street dwellers and floating population.

Methodology: Qualitative

Partner: BRAC Advocacy Department

Donor: BRAC Advocacy Department

- 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.

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

Focal: Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 - December 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) and

Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **BRAC HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION PROGRAMME (HNPP): IMPACT EVALUATION AND SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF SELECTED PROGRAMMES**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Technical Advisor:

- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Saira Parvin Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2019 - December 2020

Implemented Under:

- Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)
- Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)
- Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: The main objective of this study is to identify and evaluate the contributions of BRAC HNPP programmes as a set of changes in the lives of the disadvantaged population not limited to health only but spanning beyond to other sectors of development. A 'contribution analysis' approach is adopted by comparing between what happened and what would have happened in the absence of the programme. Thus, along with a credible and evidence-based narrative, the study aims at reviewing the 'value for money' propositions of the investments made based on the 'social return of investment' concept and DALYs averted to evaluate the overall impact of BRAC HNPP.

Methodology:

Cross-sectional study (both qualitative and quantitative approach)

Donor: BRAC HNPP

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP (CoE-SISU)

Established in 2016, the main objective of the CoE-SISU is to timely generate and embed knowledge related to healthcare practice. The Centre aims to bridge gaps to allow successful scaling up and implementation of interventions by focusing on testing different methodologies, generating evidence-based interventions and innovations, and translating them into standard protocols for policy-makers in Bangladesh.

Research conducted at the Centre reviews potential evidence of successful interventions that can showcase the application of science of implementation for scaling-up. Guidelines and policy briefs are produced for policymakers on implementation of various health programmes and scale-up in Bangladesh. Advocacy efforts include the development of communication materials to showcase successfully implemented or scaled up programmes. Training and short courses are offered under the Centre on implementation research and, monitoring and evaluation to build capacity of development professionals, implementers, researchers and government officials.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

- **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.

Co-PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Timeline: July 2018 - November 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: Identify demand and supply side barriers of the standard MTL programme and to improve the programme by revising the product design and developing a decentralised 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 programme, formal healthcare utilisation, 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 Department
- University of Heidelberg, Germany

- **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.

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

Focal: Dr Mrittika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 - December 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **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.

Co-PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Timeline: March 2017 - November 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: To assess the effects of edutainment campaigns in 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

- **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.

Co-PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2017 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

Donors:

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

Partners:

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

- **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.

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

Focal: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - September 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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 New York

Partner: UNICEF Bangladesh

- **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.

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

Coordinator: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - September 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: A comprehensive understanding of the existing implementation challenges of MNCH programmes 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 Bangladesh

Partner: UNICEF Bangladesh

- **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.

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

Coordinator: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - April 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **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.

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

Focal: Saima Mehjabeen, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: May 2019 - October 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND HEALTH SYSTEMS RESILIENCE IN HAITI AND BANGLADESH (CLIMHB)**

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

Focal:

- Dr Mowtushi Matin, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;

Timeline: June 2019 - December 2022

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

Donors:

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

Partner: CEPED – IRD

- **BEHAVIORAL DIAGNOSTIC TO IMPROVE MATERNAL, CHILD, AND ADOLESCENT NUTRITION OUTCOMES IN BANGLADESH: QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES**

PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Sayema Akter, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 - December 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **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.

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

Focal: Saima Mehjabeen, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2019 - January 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES' LIVED EXPERIENCES, ASPIRATIONS AND CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS IN LIVELIHOODS IN BANGLADESH, AND HOW THEY CAN SHARE WITH LOCAL DECISION MAKERS**

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

Focal: Sayema Akter, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Technical Lead: Dr Mrittika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: June 2020 – December 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: The general objective of the study is to understand the experiences, aspirations and challenges of youths with disability in their livelihood in Bangladesh and, to explore the inclusion of young people with disabilities into policy dialogues around the implementation of SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth.

Methodology: Mixed Method

Donor: British Academy

Partner: Sightsavers

- **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;

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

Focal: Sayema Akter, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: November 2017 - April 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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 sensitise 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
- **SYNTHESIS AND TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS FROM POLIO ERADICATION (STRIPE)**

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

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

Focal: Humayra Binte Anwar, Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: April 2018 - December 2022

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: 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 and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

- **HEALTH, HOUSING, AND HYGIENE (HHH) IN BANGLADESH (PHASE II)**

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

Co-PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Mushfiqur Rahman, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: November 2018 - September 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

- **OLD AGE ALLOWANCE**

PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Viola Asri, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Konstanz; Kumar Biswas, Research Coordinator, The World Bank; Sebastian Fehrer, Professor of Economics of Social Policy, University of Bremen; Urs Fischbacher, Professor of Applied Research in Economics, University of Konstanz; Katharina Michaelowa, Professor of Political Economy and Development, University of Zurich

Focal: Viola Asri, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Konstanz; Kumar Biswas, Research Coordinator, The World Bank.

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

Donors:

University of Zurich, Switzerland; Thurgau Economic Research Institute of Economics, Switzerland; University of Konstanz, Germany; International Growth Centre, London School of Economics, United Kingdom; Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland.

Partners:

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

- **A MEDIA EXPERIMENT TO REDUCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI:

- Nina Buchmann, PhD candidate, Stanford University;
- Paula Lopez-Pena, Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University.

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

Timeline: June 2019 - April 2022

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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: Qualitative

Donors:

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

- **MILLION COOL ROOFS CHALLENGE**

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

Co-PI: Dr Atonu Rabbani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH

Focal/Coordinator:

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

Timeline: July 2019 – October 2021.

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU)

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

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH (CUEH)

Established in 2013, with the focus on health equity challenges of the urban poor, particularly on urban health governance; the Centre works in inter-sectoral research, training, policy and results-based action. The Centre motivates evidence-based dialogue and decision-making, and supports partnerships and networking among government policymakers, private and public service providers, researchers and development partners.

The key areas of the Centre's work include training and capacity development to enhance skills and competencies for better urban health governance, inter-sectoral action, needs and impact assessments as well as programme design, implementation and evaluation. Research at the Centre focuses on urban health governance, community engagement and accountability, and facility mapping and innovations in service delivery models for the urban poor. With broad participation of relevant sectors (health, housing, transport, etc.) and stakeholders (development partners, local government, NGOs, etc.), the Centre applies an evidence-based approach to building consensus, aligning resources and coordinating action towards better governance practices.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

- **PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE HEALTHY CITIES**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Marzuka Ahmad Radia, Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2018 - April 2022

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Objective: To develop actionable policy scenarios bearing in mind the health impact of different sectors on health outcomes and validate them with stakeholders; to engage and build the capacity of these stakeholders to facilitate policy implementation; to develop an integrated analytical framework and develop locally-parameterised models for Dhaka city that will guide forming and integrating policy scenarios across sectors and quantify their impacts on health outcomes.

Methodology: Quantitative and Qualitative methods, spatial analysis and modelling with simulation.

Donor: Wellcome Trust, UK

Partner:

- Ames Research Center;
- Anzhen Hospital China;
- Arizona State University;
- Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE);

- McGill University, Canada;
- Imperial College London, UK;
- Public Health England;
- Simon Fraser University Canada;
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health;
- The University of Chicago;
- Tsinghua University, China;
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst;
- University of British Columbia;
- University of Ghana.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR EQUITY (ARISE)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2018 - February 2024

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Objective: To catalyse change in approaches to enhancing accountability and improving the health and wellbeing of poor, marginalised people living in informal urban settlements.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UK Research and Innovation's Global Challenges Research Fund.

Partners:

- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK;
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK;
- Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK;
- The University of York, UK;
- George Institute for Global Health, India;
- Slum/Shack Dwellers' International (SDI), India;
- African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya;
- Liverpool VCT Health (LVCT Health), Kenya;
- Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone;
- College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone.

- **ADVANCING INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT TARGETED AT THE URBAN POOR**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator:

- Md. Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Statistician, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Rafiul Alam, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: August 2019 - June 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Objective: To conduct social and poverty assessment of urban poor households of the low-income communities at the city level in Bangladesh through desk review and consultation with community-based organisations at city grass root level; to document the existing good practices, challenges and identifying investment opportunities in strengthening resilience for the urban poor.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Partner: BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP)

- **FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND EDUCATION: BUILDING THE EVIDENCE FOR WHAT WORKS**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Samir Ranjan Nath, Programme Lead, BRAC IED.

Coordinator: Rasel Babu, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Saira Parvin, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2019 - April 2021.

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Objective: To Advance the understanding on education for the forcibly displaced as part of a broader education sector agenda of improving learning outcomes for populations living in poverty, exclusion, or distress; to improve its effectiveness regarding its role and contributions to facilitating transition and uptake from humanitarian education responses to long-term development agendas that can support sustainable access to quality education for the forcibly displaced and the communities that host them.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: The World Bank Group

Partner: American Institutes for Research (AIR)

- **BRAC HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION PROGRAMME (HNPP): IMPACT EVALUATION AND SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF SELECTED PROGRAMMES**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Technical Advisor:

- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Saira Parvin Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2019 - December 2020

Implemented Under:

- Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)
- Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)
- Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: The main objective of this study is to identify and evaluate the contributions of BRAC HNPP programmes as a set of changes in the lives of the disadvantaged population not limited to health only but spanning beyond to other sectors of development. A 'contribution analysis' approach is adopted by comparing between what happened and what would have happened in the absence of the programme. Thus, along with a credible and evidence-based narrative, the study aims at reviewing the 'value for money' propositions of the investments made based on the 'social return of investment' concept and DALYs averted to evaluate the overall impact of BRAC HNPP.

Methodology:

Cross-sectional study (both qualitative and quantitative approach)

Donor: BRAC HNPP

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND NUTRITION (CNCDN)

Established in 2017, the Centre aims to reduce mortality and complications related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition in Bangladesh through prevention, treatment and control. The Centre conducts research and works with the government of Bangladesh to develop guidelines for prevention, treatment and control, and perform evidence-based advocacy around NCDs and malnutrition.

Research at the Centre includes identifying evidence-based practices in clinical and population settings, implementing health system research to optimise delivery of interventions, and conducting economic evaluation of novel and evidence-based interventions. Health care providers are trained on risk stratification for NCDs through prevention and management. The Centre also strengthens capacity of programme managers and policy makers on evidence-based policy and interventions for prevention and control. To further promote and advocate for the prevention, treatment and control of NCDs and malnutrition, and encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles, the Centre also develops communication materials based on their research.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

- **BASELINE SURVEY OF STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES (SHASTO)**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Moyazzam Hossain, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February 2018 - June 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To report the current situation of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their behavioural and clinical risk factors in selected intervention (Narsingdi district and Dhaka City North) and control sites (Gazipur district and Dhaka City South) of SHASTO project.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Partner: Non-communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

- **UNDERSTANDING THE PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN SOUTH ASIANS PEOPLE-SOUTH ASIA BIOBANK**

PI:

- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: May 2018 - September 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To strengthen NCD surveillance systems in Bangladesh by establishing 30 surveillance sites across the country and complete structured assessments on a representative sample of up to 30,000 Bangladeshi men and women aged above 18 years, living at the 30 surveillance sites using standardised approaches; to provide nationally representative data on the burden of T2D, CVD and their risk factors, and on the quality of care for these major NCDs to quantify needs, in Bangladeshi populations.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

Partners:

- Imperial College London, UK;
- Non-communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS);
- National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD);
- Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes;
- Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM);
- Bangladesh University of Health Science (BUHS)
- BRAC

- **DELIVERY OF TRAINING ON WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) BANGLADESH PACKAGE OF ESSENTIAL NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INTERVENTIONS (PEN) FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Rina Rani Paul, Consultant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Ali Ahsan, Research Medical Officer, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 - December 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To increase the capacity and skills of primary health care providers (doctors/nurses/paramedics) in Cox's Bazar district on the implementation of PEN low resource

settings, using a team-based approach; to strengthen the capacity of community health volunteer supervisors in Cox's Bazar district on behavioral and clinical-risk factors for NCDs.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donors: World Health Organization (WHO), Dhaka

Partners:

- Non-Communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh;
- Community Health Working Group.

- TRAINING AND DIGITAL CARE COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED PREVENTION OF TYPE 2 DIABETES AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE BY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAMS IN BANGLADESH

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Coordinator: Abu Abdullah Mohammad Hanif, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 - September 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCND)

Objective: To develop and evaluate digital platforms for training and care-coordination by the primary health care team in Bangladesh; to improve prevention and control of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and Cardiovascular disease (CVD).

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK

Partners:

- Imperial College London, UK;
- Non-Communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh;
- BRAC.

- ENHANCING NUTRITION SERVICES TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IN AFRICA AND ASIA (ENRICH)- MIDLINE EVALUATION, BANGLADESH

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

Co-PI: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2016 - June 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To determine the effectiveness of ENRICH programme's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan (MEP) that guides a coordinated approach to measuring the effectiveness and impact of ENRICH programme interventions across the whole implementation cycle- including achievements of immediate and intermediate outcomes and impact evaluation at end-line as identified within the Performance Measurement Framework (PMF).

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: World Vision

Partner: University of Toronto

- **EFFICACY OF ZINC-BIO FORTIFIED RICE IN IMPROVING ZINC STATUS IN YOUNG BANGLADESHI CHILDREN**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Md. Rabiul Islam, Senior Field Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2017 – June 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To determine the efficacy of newly developed zinc biofortified rice on plasma zinc concentrations in children between 12-36 months of age in a rural area of Bangladesh, using a double blind randomised controlled trial, in an effort to alleviate public health problems, such as impaired child growth and diarrhoea-related morbidity, in a sustainable way.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: HarvestPlus

Partners:

- ETH Zurich;
- Bangladesh Rice Research Institute;
- icddr,b.

- **ANALYTICAL TASK IN SUPPORT OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH;

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH
Coordinator: Md. Mokbul Hossain, Analyst (Statistics), BRAC JPGSPH
Timeline: April 2017 - March 2019
Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To support the government of Bangladesh in making evidence-based decisions on multi-sectoral nutrition programming for adolescent girls by analysing nationally representative FSNSP data (2009 to 2015).

Donors: The World Bank

Methodology: Quantitative

Partners:

- UNICEF Bangladesh;
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN);
- Shornokishoree Network Foundation (SKNF).

- **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE-NATIONAL NUTRITION SERVICES (FSNS-NNS)**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.
Co-PI: Md. Showkat Ali Khan, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.
Coordinator: Moyazzam Hossain, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH
Timeline: April 2018 - December 2019
Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To assess food security of the rural and urban households and nutritional situation of women, children, adolescent boys and girls, adult makes and geriatric population.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: National Nutrition Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

Partner: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

- **SCALING UP NUTRITIONAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OR HEALTH SYSTEM (RINEW-G)**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Abu Abdullah Mohammad Hanif, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Md. Mokbul Hossain, Analyst (Statistics), BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 - May 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To implement an integrated package of interventions (maternal nutrition, infant and young child nutrition, early child stimulation, water, sanitation, hygiene and prevention of arsenic and lead) through the government health system in one sub-district; assess uptake by government personnel, impact on target mother's knowledge and practices, and barriers, prospects and pathways for broader scale-up.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partners:

- Stanford University;
- Johns Hopkins University;
- University of California, Davis;
- University of California, Berkeley.
- icddr,b.

- IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE UNICEF MULTISECTOR INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN URBAN SLUMS

PI: Dr Esther Heesemann, Chair of Econometrics, Department of Economics, University of Mannheim.

Co-PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2019 - March 2022

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: To provide evidence on the effectiveness of the UNICEF urban slums nutrition programme targeting children and caregiver living in the Sylhet City Corporation.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: UNICEF, Bangladesh

Partners:

- Sylhet City Corporation;
- UNDP;
- Centre for Evaluation and Development (C4ED).

HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH HUB

The rise of armed conflict, forced displacement, environmental disasters and other humanitarian crises is a direct result of natural hazards and major disease outbreaks. This has not only led to the increase of sufferings of hundreds of millions of lives but now more so than ever in history, more people are facing public health issues.

As of August 2017, more than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in need of humanitarian assistance have migrated to Bangladesh. In order to improve their access to public health aid, multiple national and international organisations are tirelessly working across all camps in Cox's Bazar.

Sharing the same vision since 2018, BRAC JPGSPH continues to conduct research studies on Rohingya refugees across 3 of its Centres of Excellence in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; in efforts to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve well-being of the Rohingya community.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

- **HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOR AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN COX'S BAZAR**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH;

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Irin Akhter, Deputy Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2018 - April 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective: To determine the illness patterns, access and utilisation of health services and health facilities in selected Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: BRAC

Partner: BRAC

- **A QUALITATIVE EVALUATION OF BRAC HUMANITARIAN PLAY LAB (HPL) MODEL IN ROHINGYA CAMPS IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Technical Advisor:

- AKM Mazharul Islam, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: February 2019 – December 2023

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: This study aims to understand what makes the HPL model unique in the Rohingya refugee camp setting. Explore and document the life history and experiences of Rohingya families, learn indigenous knowledge, attitudes and practices of the community in terms of ECD and play-based learning; evaluate HPL's impact on learning, healing and coping of children, children's acceptance of HPL and play based learning; observe how Rohingya cultural aspects and practices are being preserved through the model and what impact it has on social cohesiveness.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **A STORY OF THE EVOLUTION OF BRAC HUMANITARIAN PLAY LAB (HPL) IN ROHINGYA CAMPS OF BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2023.

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To undertake a process documentation study outlining the story of BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED) and BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) run Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) for children aged 0-6 years in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR FOR SRH SERVICES OF ROHINGYA WOMEN IN ROHINGYA CAMPS OF COX'S BAZAR: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Technical Advisor:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH;
- AKM Mazharul Islam, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 – July 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: The aim of this ethnographic assessment was to investigate the women's and community perceptions and behaviours influencing healthcare-seeking practices related to pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care and family planning; to understand the socio-cultural and religious beliefs and practices around pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care and family planning; to understand the decision-making process of family dynamics with regards to seeking antenatal, delivery, postpartum and newborn care; to identify the challenges in health-seeking for pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care and family planning services from providers as well as women's perspectives.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: World Health Organization (WHO)

Partner: World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh

- SOCIO-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF ECD: PERSPECTIVES OF THE ROHINGYA COMMUNITY IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: August 2019 - February 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand perspectives of childhood and childhood development among Rohingya mothers and fathers; to know their practices and beliefs related to childhood and childhood development.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- PERCEPTIONS OF ROHINGYA COMMUNITY ABOUT BRAC HUMANITARIAN PLAY LAB AND CHANGES OCCURRED TO EXPOSED CHILDREN

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Fouzia Khanam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: August 2019 – February 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To explore the perception of parents and community about HPL interventions; to understand and explain how play based ECD interventions bring developmental changes among Rohingya children and support their mothers.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **LEARNING THROUGH PLAY: LOOKING INTO PLAY LAB IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL OF BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Mrinmoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Mrinmoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: September 2019 - January 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To illustrate the lessons learnt in mainstreaming play based learning model among four to five year old children in Government Primary School.

Specific objective:

To understand the perspectives of community and key stakeholders about play based learning model; to describe the changes in the development of children exposed to the activities of the Play Lab; to document the driving force for and the challenges to initiating and implementing the Play Labs in the government primary spaces;

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH FOR DELIVERING INTEGRATED COMPREHENSIVE SRHR SERVICES FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-Investigators:

- Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: May 2018 – December 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To conduct situation analysis for assessing demand and supply side barriers in accessing SRH services by adolescent girls and women aged 12-59 years; to assess the implementation of operational models for delivering integrated comprehensive SRHR services for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor and Partner: World Health Organization (WHO)

- **TRANSFORMATIVE COMPETENCY-BASED PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYABILITY IN BANGLADESH'S HEALTH SECTOR/TRANS4M-PH**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Md. Koushik Ahmed, Deputy Director, MPH Programme, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - January 2022

Objective: The project aims to introduce competency-based curricula in Bangladesh to improve professional employability among students and create a core group of indigenous faculties trained in best-practice facilitation while creatively using appropriate contextualised pedagogy.

Donor: ERASMUS+

Partners:

- Asian University for Women (AUW);
- International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD);
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS);
- Maastricht University.

- **EXPLORING OLDER ADOLESCENTS' (AGE 15-19) REASONS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TO INFORM YOUTH INTERVENTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Anushka Zafar, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 – December 2019

Objective: To explore perceptions around the reasons behind substance abuse (ie, alcohol, tobacco and drugs) among older adolescents living in urban slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)