

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

Grant Amount: USD 30,120

- **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)

Grant Amount: USD 75,000

- 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)

Grant Amount: USD 90,742

- **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

Grant Amount: USD 144,067

- **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)

Grant Amount: USD 75,000

- **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)

Grant Amount: USD 75,000

- **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)

Grant Amount: USD 15,243

- **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)

Grant Amount: USD 86,579