

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 ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till September, 2021)*

- **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

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 Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2023.

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)

- **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: Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor, Co-Director, Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

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: World Health Organization (WHO)

Partner: World Health Organization (WHO)

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

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Other researchers:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Saira Parveen Jolly, Sr. Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tahmid Hasan, Sr. Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ayanti Barua, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: April 2021 - March 2023

Objective: The objectives of the study are

- To understand the provision of MR and PAC services available in refugee camps
- To explore community members' knowledge and use of MR and PAC services through both formal and informal sources, and to interrogate the role of preferences, stigma and health literacy influences on women's abortion-related care-seeking behavior, and
- To contextualize these experiences within the community through understanding the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of community leaders and men related to the management of unintended pregnancies.

Methodology: Mixed Method

Donor: Guttmacher Institute (USA)

Partners:

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