

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

- **PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE HEALTHY CITIES**

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

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

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

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

Timeline: September 2018 - April 2023

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-parameterized 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.

- **ARISE HUB: ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR EQUITY**

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

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

Coordinators: Nadia Farnaz, Research Fellow; Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator

Location: Bangladesh (Dhaka), India, Kenya, Sierra Leone

Duration of the Project: February 2019 – February 2024

Target Population: Marginalized people living in urban informal settlements.

Bangladesh project site: Three slums in Dhaka city - Shyampur, Dhalpur, Kallyanpur pora bosti

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

The ARISE Hub is addressing the intractable development challenge of ill-health, inequity and insecurity in urban informal settlements in Low- and Middle-Income Countries in the context of complex and often dysfunctional governance arrangements. This Hub works with the most marginalized people living in urban informal settlements and to support them in identifying their priorities, making their conditions visible to key service providers related to health and wellbeing (both governmental and non-governmental). This research applies community-based participatory approaches to co-produce knowledge and evidence in partnership with the community and key stakeholders.

Methodology: Mixed method (participatory action research)

Donors: GCRF (Global Challenges Research Fund); UK Research and Innovation

Project Partners: Institution Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK; Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK; Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK Slum and Shack Dwellers' International (SDI); The George Institute for Global Health, India; BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University; College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), Sierra Leone; Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone; Liverpool VCT health (LVCT), Kenya; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya.

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

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

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

Timeline: May 2020 - April 2026

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 marginalized 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: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) [Former DFID], 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.

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

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, 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.

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)

Timeline: December 2019 - December 2020

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

- AN ASSESSMENT OF BRAC HEALTH NUTRITION AND POPULATION PROGRAMME AND FOLLOW-UP SURVEY FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – 2021

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

Other Researchers:

- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tridib Roy Chowdhury, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: March 2021 - June 2021

Objective: To explore the reproductive and maternal healthcare services, infant and young child health care practices, dietary diversity of the adolescent girls and women and health care services utilization for non-communicable diseases (NCD) by the population aged ≥ 35 years of the BRAC HNPP areas.

Methodology: Cross-sectional study. Quantitative method will be applied for data collection

Donor: BRAC

- IMPACT OF NUTRITIONAL CORNER IN BRAC HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS: A COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

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

Other Researchers:

- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: May 2021 - December 2021

Objective:

- To assess the changes in coverage of the target population included for improving the nutritional status
- To measure the change in nutritional status on the target population ((0-59 month children, Pregnant and Lactating Mothers (PLWs) as a result of the integrated and promotional nutritional services
- To determine the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of the integrated and promotional nutrition services in the BRAC health facilities of the Rohingya Refugee Camps

Methodology: Baseline and endline survey. Quantitative method will be applied for data collection

Donor: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine