

Narrative on the partners and Activities of CHORUS Project at BRAC JPGSPH

The “[Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban Health Systems](#)” (CHORUS) is a 6-year (May 2020-April 2026) multi-country research programme consortium (RPC) focused on urban health systems with funding from United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (former DFID). The consortium is led by Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, University of Leeds and University of York. This programme aims to undertake research that responds to the practical challenges of delivering equitable health services in urban areas of 4 partner countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal and Nigeria. In order to build evidence in different urban settings, CHORUS aims to work in one mega and one medium-sized city in the partner countries through an “embedded” approach of research, whereby policy makers, health professionals and communities will be engaged throughout the entire research process (i.e., problem identification, project design and implementation) to catalyze uptake of the research into policy and practice. The Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH) at BRAC JPGSPH is working on this project with the following partners since 2020 to date:

Partners:

- Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, University of Leeds, UK
- University of York, UK
- ARK Foundation, Bangladesh
- HERD International, Nepal
- University of Nigeria, Nigeria
- University of Ghana, Ghana

BRAC JPGSPH and ARK Foundation, a private sector research organization in Bangladesh are working together in this project in close collaboration with Dhaka North City Corporation, Khulna City Corporation, and Local Government. BRAC JPGSPH is also leading the CHORUS Capacity Strengthening activities in South Asian context (i.e., Bangladesh, Nepal). We are working to strengthen capacity of three groups of urban health system actors: (i) local communities; (ii) health policymakers, local governments, and service providers; (iii) researchers in partner organizations and their networks. Besides, BRAC JPGSPH will also design and implement a country project on urban primary health care models. The project will also engage policymakers, civil society organizations and urban communities to co-produce knowledge on how to reduce the existing health system inequality especially for the urban poor. Our research will help in generating evidence-based policies for improved health and reduced inequities in urban health system of Bangladesh.

In 2020, BRAC JPGSPH started their project activities for capacity strengthening through developing a capacity assessment handbook. Later, they started their capacity assessment among the individual CHORUS researchers within partner organizations. Besides, the team also started developing the draft of their country project on Urban Health. In addition to this, BRAC JPGSPH also worked in a study related to the role of the private sector and city governments during the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal and Nigeria.