



BRAC SCHOOL OF
JAMES P. GRANT PUBLIC HEALTH



February 2023

HIGHLIGHTS





BRAC
James P Grant
School of Public Health,
BRAC University

The School was founded by Late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed in 2004 in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address the unmet public health challenges particular to Asia, Africa and South America. The School is dedicated to contributing to public health by creating public health leaders and innovative solutions through cutting-edge and experiential Education, Training, and Research to inform policies and programmes.



The School works in close collaboration with its institutional partner BRAC, the world's biggest NGO. Research partnership with BRAC allows the School to contribute evidence to inform BRAC's programmes and policies. BRAC field operations in communities offer a dynamic and diverse learning laboratory for our Master of Public Health (MPH) students.

Partnership with



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

One of the top
Schools in the
region

Featured by **Johns
Hopkins University** in
2020

Public Health
Education
Leadership Award

Awarded by **South-East Asia
Public Health Education
Institutions Network
(SEAPHEIN)** in 2019

One of the
most innovative
public health
schools

Featured by the **World
Health Organization
(WHO)** in 2007

630
Graduates

Future public health leaders from 34 countries have chosen the School with its faculties from 19 international universities and institutions and 24 academic partners to date

Funded by over 150 global organisations and
200+ national and international partners
spanning 6 continents

255+
Research Projects

840+
Peer-Reviewed
International Publications

International book chapters and peer-reviewed articles, authored and co-authored by researchers at the School, published in over 80 renowned international journals

To influence policies and programmes nationally, globally and regionally, the School developed impact materials and conducted events on multiple themes

300+
Policy Impact
Engagements

270+
Professional
Skills Short Courses

School's international training hub, with over 325 global facilitators, enhanced the skills of over 7,700 health and development professionals

Dean Sabina F Rashid joins the Board of Trustees at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK

Professor Rashid becomes the first Bangladeshi on the Board of Trustees of the prestigious LSTM, the first institution in the world dedicated to research and teaching in tropical medicine. She was also **featured in the book 'Women and Global Health Leadership'** published by Springer in 2022.



Dr Malabika Sarker appointed as a Professor at Brown University, an Ivy League institute

Dr Malabika Sarker, former Associate Dean of the School, joins the Behavioral and Social Science unit of the School of Public Health of Brown University. She is on leave but will continue to contribute to two MPH courses as an Adjunct Professor.



Professor Syed Masud Ahmed listed as Top Scientist from BRAC University by Research.com

It was announced in 2022 in the list of Best Universities in the World published by Research.com, one of the leading academic platforms for scientists from the field of Social Sciences and Humanities and all other major research disciplines.





Professor Malay Kanti Mridha awarded research grant from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh

He received the grant from the Integrated Health Science Research and Development Fund of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022. This made BRAC University the only private university in Bangladesh to have received this award.



Bachera Aktar awarded Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) fellowship

Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director of the Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual, and Reproductive Health and Rights, was selected for the eighth edition of the Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) programme in 2022 which was held in Bogotá, Colombia. EV4GH is an innovative multi-partner blended training programme linked to the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research.

Nahitun Naher awarded a crowdsourcing call by Health Systems Global

Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage, became a winner of a crowdsourcing call for an anti-corruption study conducted at the School supported by the Anti-corruption Evidence Consortium (ACE), SOAS, UK. As a winner, she virtually presented at Health Systems Research Symposium 2022 held in Bogotá, Colombia.



Emerging Leadership



Assistant Professor Mrittika Barua wins a competitive research grant by WHO-TDR

She will lead the \$ 100,000 USD research project “Facilitators and barriers of management of multidrug resistant tuberculosis in Bangladesh: An implementation research through gender lens” in partnership with National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Bangladesh.

The School receives competitive research grant “CLEAR” by FCDO with Assistant Professor Farzana Misha as the lead

The COVID-19 Learning, Evidence and Research Programme (CLEAR) is a competitively awarded grant. The research project with a grant amount of GBP 100,000 aims to provide a better understanding of the digital health landscape in terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Bangladesh.



SoNAR-Global, a global consortium with the School as a core partner, receives ‘Etoiles de l’Europe Award’ from the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France

SoNAR-Global is a global consortium led by 11 renowned institutions from 9 countries including France, Netherlands, Austria, Ukraine, UK, Uganda, Senegal, Thailand and Bangladesh. It aims to build a sustainable international social science network to engage the active participation of social sciences and promote complementarity and synergy in the governance of prevention and response to infectious threats and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). SoNAR-Global designed and implemented training to strengthen social science capacity around the world. Professor Syed Masud Ahmed and Dr Nahitun Naher worked collaboratively with SoNAR-Global from the School.

Etoiles de l’Europe Award by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France, honours coordinators of European projects for research and innovation. In December 2022, Tamara Giles-Vernick, coordinator of SoNAR Global, received the award on behalf of the project.



Exciting new grants in climate change and mental health

Climate Adaptation and Climate-Driven Migration in South Asia: Building an International Research Network for Long-Term Impact



Donor: The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University, and Harvard University

Leads: **Sabina F Rashid**, Professor and Dean; **Dr Zahirul Islam**, Associate Professor

Focal: **Sameen Nasar**, Research Fellow

Partners:

- Harvard University
- BRAC Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research, BRAC University
- BRAC
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), India
- National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India
- Centre for Policy Research (CPR), India
- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India
- Social Alpha

Professor Rashid, Associate Professor Islam, and Sameen Nasar will be attending the launching event of the project in late March 2023

Strengthening Health Systems by Addressing the Agency and Mental Wellbeing of Community Health Workers (CHW): With Government and BRAC



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

Leads: **Professor Syed Masud Ahmed** Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (COE-HS&UHC); **Associate Professor Md. Tanvir Hasan** Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), and **Sabina F Rashid**, Professor and Dean

Focals: **Dr Kawkab Mahmud**, Senior Research Coordinator; **Dr. Nahitun Naher**, Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage

Partners:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh
- National Institute of Mental Health
- BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme
- LVCT Health; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

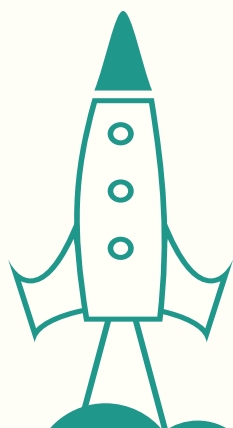
Global short courses on designing community-centered solutions on pandemic preparedness

As a member of the Open Society University Network (OSUN), the School, in collaboration with Learning Design Studio, offered the courses to participants across 12 countries in Asia, Africa, and South America. The course enabled professional learners to ideate simple and practical community-centric solutions for their real-time LMIC health crisis during COVID-19.



Executive Certificate Course in Population Health Informatics by the School and City University of New York (CUNY)

The collaborative training programme provides experiential learning opportunities in Population Health Informatics. Management Information Systems (MIS) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is an honourable partner representing the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The programme is supported by the Open Society University Network (OSUN).



Regional Hub for Population Health Informatics launched in March 2023

The School collaborated with the City University of New York to initiate the hub with the aim to create a skilled workforce in Population Health Informatics essential to solving complex public health challenges of the 21st century. The hub was launched through an international conference on Population Health Informatics in March 2023 where 70+ national and global experts in public health and health informatics attended.

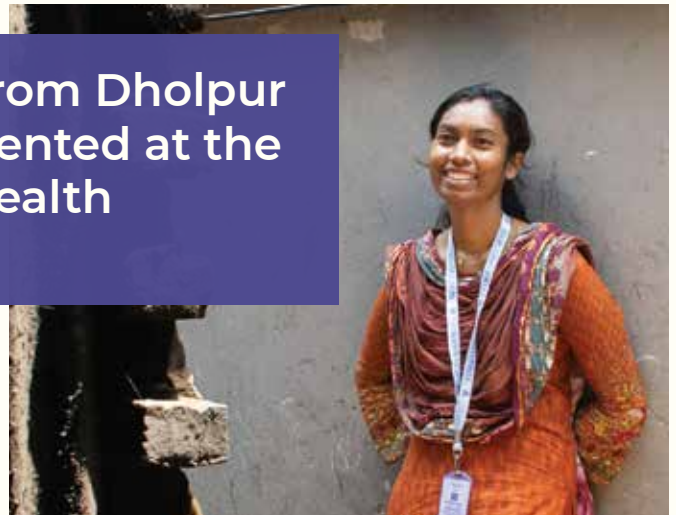


South-South collaboration: Professor Zahidul Quayyum visits HERD International, Nepal to provide capacity-strengthening support

As a part of CHORUS Urban Health Programme, Professor Zahidul Quayyum visited Nepal in February, 2023, to guide HERD International, the local CHORUS partner, in designing training for journalists on urban health issues and urban health system. CHORUS is being implemented in Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana and Nigeria. Professor Quayyum is leading the South Asia regional capacity-strengthening activities.

Community co-researcher from Dholpur slum in ARISE research presented at the 7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

During the symposium, Sweety Akter virtually discussed the problems she and millions of others face regarding water, sanitation and hygiene, and the ways these can be alleviated.



Students from New York University Abu Dhabi visit the School for experiential learning

The School hosted students from New York University Abu Dhabi for an experiential learning experience in January 2023. Their field visit within Dhaka enabled them to learn how COVID-19 impacted structural inequalities in urban informal settlements. In addition, Professor Sabina F Rashid facilitated a session along with Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, on exploring COVID-19 impact on structural inequalities.



MPH students from the 19th cohort start the programme with community-based solutions thinking

In January 2023, during their first module “Introduction to Public Health”, the students worked closely with community members living in urban informal settlements to develop a proof of concept for simple solutions linked to health care, nutrition, emotional health and well-being, livelihood, housing, water, and sanitation.



Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Excellence Award: 4 faculty members recognised for their outstanding contribution



DR RICHARD CASH

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Senior Lecturer, Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA



DR STEVE LUBY

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and Associate Dean for Global Health Research, Stanford University, USA



IMTEAZ IBNE MANNAN

Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH



MEHEDI HASAN

Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH



Capacity-strengthening courses for government health workers with Bangladesh Health Watch

Between 2021 and 2022, the Centre for Professional Skills Development implemented the first round 3 short courses for upazila-level health workers on Good Governance, Equity in Service Access, and Voice and Participation of Stakeholders.

3 Research and Policy Hubs initiated in 2023

The School launched three new Hubs to encourage researchers and development professionals to explore dynamic approaches to collaborative research for impact on policies and practice. The Hubs bring together the expertise of in-house experts and advisors to strengthen the capacity of researchers and development professionals in Bangladesh and in the region.



Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)

The Hub will collect and collate existing evidence and generate new evidence relating to climate change, environment, and health. The Hub will also bring the teaching, programme, and research efforts involving health, education, and economy of climate change, and offer different tools, strategies, management options, and technical support to policymakers. It will work in partnership with other institutions.

Focal person: Dr Mohammad Zahirul Islam, Associate Professor

Hub for Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)

The Hub engages in capacity building in accessing, acquiring, and making available public health practice and policy evidence. The aim is to address the emerging challenges health systems face globally due to the evolving burden of chronic non-communicable diseases, new epidemics, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and changes in population dynamics.

Focal person: Dr Ataur Rahman, Director, Centre for Professional Skills Development

Resource person: Professor Shaikh A. Shahed Hossain



Hub for Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)

The Hub aims to strengthen the capacity of junior and mid-level researchers and development practitioners working in public sector institutes, academia, research institutions, and other civil society organisations in the country. Drawing from the expertise of in-house qualitative researchers, the Hub will also provide technical and methodological support to the existing centres at the school.

Focal persons: Dr Mrittika Barua, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up, and Barnali Chakraborty, Associate Scientist

Advisors: Dr Alayne Adams, Adjunct Professor at BRAC JPGSPH, and Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, McGill University, and Sabina F Rashid, Professor and Dean

Digital Health and Rights research: Leaving no one behind

Digital technology and digital platforms have become an emerging area of research due to their impact on the modern world. Digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data, are transforming the way people interact with each other, work, and do business. Digital platforms, such as social media, cloud computing, and digital marketing, are allowing companies to reach and engage with larger audiences than ever before. The potential of these technologies and platforms has yet to be fully realized, and researchers are investigating ways to make them more efficient, secure, and useful.

The School has been at the forefront of digital health research and advocacy to inform policy and practice in Bangladesh. With the increasing role of digital platforms in various sectors, these research activities aim to explore the potential of digital technology to improve health outcomes and address social disparities.

The School has conducted research on a range of topics related to digital health, including the feasibility of using mobile financial services for community health workers, the use of digital health platforms for sexual and reproductive health, and the opportunities and challenges of digital health in Bangladesh. In addition, the School has organized several webinars, workshops, and conferences to bring together stakeholders from government, academia, and the private sector to discuss and collaborate on digital health initiatives to inform policies.

Selected activities:



In April 2022, the School hosted a webinar on “Re-imagining Digital health for SRHR equity in Bangladesh”



Managing impact of COVID-19 by contextually adapting contact tracing app in partnership with BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme and Dimagi

The School is a partner of “Digital Health and Rights - Participatory Action Research” project in partnership with Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute, Geneva, funded by OSUN



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Leadership at the School



Professor Sabina F Rashid

Dean and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0916-2631>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sabina-faiz-rashid-5229671aa/>

Professor Rashid joined the School in 2004 when it was set up and was appointed Dean in 2013. She has a PhD, Masters and Bachelors in anthropology and public health from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. **She founded the Centre of Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at the School in 2008, and co-founded the Centre for Urban Equity and Health in 2013.** She teaches 3 courses in the MPH programme: Introduction to Public Health, Anthropology and Public Health, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. She has nearly 30 years of experience in research, her interests are ethnographic and qualitative research, with a focus on gender, health, human rights, poverty, and services amongst urban populations, adolescents, and marginalised groups in rural and urban Bangladesh. She is particularly interested in examining the impact of structural inequalities and inequities and intersectional factors that affect the ability of these populations to realise their health and rights. She is actively engaged in and a member of several global and national platforms to ensure evidence informs and brings muted, neglected voices to the forefront, to inform policies and interventions. **During her career, Professor Rashid has been awarded over US\$22.6 Million in research/capacity building grants and has over 90 publications till date.** She has led several multi-country research and capacity-building grants with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), University of Amsterdam, Radboud University, EngenderHealth, Guttmacher Institute, African Population Health Research Centre, CREA, TARSHI, BRAC, Government of Bangladesh, national NGOs, and networks of marginalised communities. Professor Rashid is a member of several national and international committees and working groups including Rockefeller-BU 3-D Commission led by Boston University, and COVID-19 Research Roadmap Social Science Working Group, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva. She was awarded the Global Heroines of Health, in 2018, by GE Healthcare and Women in Global Health (<https://cutt.ly/h8dZtrR>). In 2022, she was a Visiting Scientist & Andelot Fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health from May to July.

Selected Global Membership and Affiliations:

- September 2022: **Member**, Board of Trustees at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK
- November 2022: **Member**, International Advisory Committee for the Korean Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)
- October 2022: **Co-Chair** for Advancing Health Research in Humanitarian Crises Project at Fogarty International Center at National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA
- January 2022: **Member**, Technical Advisory Group, SickKids Centre for Global Child Health
- January 2022: **Member**, Executive Committee of NGO Forum for Public Health
- June 2021: **Member**, Executive Planning Committee, Consortium of University of Global Health (CUGH) (for CUGH 2022-2023)
- June 2021 - 2023: **Member**, Technical Scientific Advisory Group for the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity of World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva
- March 2021-2022: **Member**, Steering Committee, Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research
- September 2020 -2022: **Member**, COVID-19 Research Roadmap social science working group, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva
- March 2020 –2022: **Member**, Rockefeller-BU 3-D Commission, led by Professor Sandro Galeo, Dean and Robert A. Knox, Professor, School of Public Health, Boston University
- April 2020 -2023: **Country Focal**, Regional Platform on Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, with Partner platforms in India and Nepal; Overall coordinator, SRHM, Geneva
- April 2009 - Present: **Member** of Working Group, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), Bangladesh (*national civil society to improve citizens' health*)



Professor Syed Masud Ahmed Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (COE-HS&UHC)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5032-7181>

Professor Ahmed is the leading researcher on issues related to Bangladesh's journey towards UHC. He has led many multi-country research projects funded by international organisations such as World Bank, GFATM, EU, DFID, ESRC, USAID, MSH, Rockefeller Foundation, Gates, Government of Netherlands, CIDA, EC, NOVIB, WEP, ICRW, UNICEF and AusAID. Professor Ahmed was a Member of the Programme Committee, Global Health Policy and Health Systems Research (GPHSR) of the NWO-WOTRO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research/Science for Global Development) and the Joint Health Systems Research Committee of the Wellcome Trust. He has been ranked among top 2% scientists in research publications according to the Stanford World Ranking of Scientists 2020.



Professor Kaosar Afsana Lead, Humanitarian Research

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5197-8151>

Professor Afsana has research and implementation experience of over 30 years in reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health (RMNCH), nutrition, early childhood development, health system, community engagement, and women empowerment. Previously, she served BRAC in Bangladesh for over 26 years as the Director of BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP). She vice-chaired the Scientific Committee, UN Food System Summit 2021, United Nations, New York, USA. She is also a Member of many national and international public health committees including the Board of Directors, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Geneva, Switzerland, and the External Advisory Committee, International Health and Tropical Medicine, Oxford University, UK.



Professor Zahidul Quayyum Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2276-4576>

Professor Quayyum has over 25 years of experience in health economics and health systems research. He has worked on research projects for improving maternal and child health in Indonesia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Bangladesh and has led several multi-country research projects funded by DFID, UKRI, Wellcome Trust, BRAC, WHO, UKAID, EU, Gates Foundation, USAID and more. Professor Quayyum is a Member of many public health committees including the Health Economic Study Group (HESG), UK; Peer reviewer, health economist for disbursement of research project funds by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and Section Editor (Health Economics and Health Systems), BMC Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition.



Professor Malay Kanti Mridha Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9226-457X>

Professor Mridha has been leading the implementation of programmes and research in the areas of maternal, neonatal and child health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He received his MBBS degree from the University of Chittagong in 1997. He has been awarded multi-country research and capacity-building grants from NIHR, the Government of Bangladesh, JICA, the World Bank, Nutrition International, USAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, DFID, AusAID, WHO, and more. He is a member of many national and international public health committees including the Executive Committee of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood; American Society for Nutrition and American Physiological Society.



Associate Professor Md. Tanvir Hasan Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5806-060X>

Associate Professor Hasan is the recipient of the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) and Australian Postgraduate Award (APA). He teaches Biostatistics in the School's MPH Programme and has led many mixed-methods research projects funded by international organisations such as IDRC, BRAC, Grand Challenges Canada, Dutch Government, UN Women, WHO, and more. He completed his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Dhaka in Applied Statistics. He obtained his PhD from The University of Queensland and he is currently a Member of Health Systems Global.



Dr Ataur Rahman Director, Centre for Professional Skills Development

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4882-4503>

Ataur Rahman, a medical graduate with a post-graduation degree in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has 30 years of research and programme delivery experience in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Urban Poor, including nutrition. Dr Rahman has working experience in the fragile environment in counties like Iran and Afghanistan. Before joining JPGSPH as Director of CPSD, he was the Director Programme of the International Planned Parenthood Federation's Regional Office in New Delhi and later in Bangkok.



Professor Malabika Sarker (On-leave) Director of the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7293-8805>

Professor Sarker is a mixed method specialist, a doctor with an MPH from Harvard University and a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Heidelberg. In her 30 years of a public health career, Professor Sarker spent ten years implementing community-based programmes at BRAC. She is the Chair of the Advisory Board of the HRP Alliance for Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS) and a member of many national and international public health committees including the International Advisory Board of the Lancet Global Health and International Immunisation Policy Task Force, World Federation of Public Health Association.



Professor Atonu Rabbani Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3821-4106>

Professor Atonu Rabbani is an applied microeconomist with research interests in health, labour, and organisation economics. He has worked extensively on a number of research areas aiming to understand how knowledge, awareness, perception, monitoring, and incentive can motivate human decision making. He has been widely published in both national and international peer-reviewed journals. Dr Rabbani is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Dhaka and an Associate Scientist at BRAC JPGSPH. He has studied economics at the University of Chicago and the University of Dhaka.

Research Strategy Team

A Research Strategy Team was formed in late 2022. All members work closely with the Directors of Centres to ensure there is strategic research and policy impact alignment across Centers and Hubs. They are actively engaged in taking forward the mission of the School.



Dr Malay Kanti Mridha Professor & Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

He is an internationally recognized scientist and leader in public health, non-communicable diseases, and nutrition research. He has over 25 years of experience in research and teaching. He received his PhD from the University of California, Davis. He coordinates the Ageing and Health course and also teaches Biostatistics and Health Systems Management courses at the School. He has a unique combination of expertise in medicine, public health, epidemiology, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, and maternal and child health. He has over 150 scientific publications including peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and research reports.



Dr Md Tanvir Hasan, PhD Associate Professor & Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

He has more than 12 years of teaching and research experience. He received his PhD from School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, the University of Queensland, Australia. He teaches *Biostatistics* and *Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* in the Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme at the School. His expertise is in advanced statistical analysis, mixed methods research, evaluation research, longitudinal study and spatial epidemiological research. He has over 38 publications including peer-reviewed articles, books and book chapters, research reports etc.



Dr Mrittika Barua, PhD Assistant Professor & Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

She has over 10 years of experience in Public Health research and teaching. She completed her PhD at Radboud University, the Netherlands. She teaches *Qualitative Research Methods* and *Quantitative Research Methods* at the School. Her research interests are Infectious Diseases, Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Implementation Research. She has a total of 11 peer-reviewed articles in international journals.



Dr Farzana Misha, PhD Assistant Professor

She has over 14 years of experience in teaching and research, including in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. She received her PhD from ISS, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. At the School, she teaches the *Quantitative Research Methods*, and the *Health Economics and Health Care Financing* modules. Her research interests include poverty, marginalized and climate vulnerable population, digital and financial inclusion, digital health, SRHR, etc. She has over 20 publications including peer-reviewed articles (published in international journals), national and international books and book chapters, and working papers.



Bachera Aktar (PhD candidate) Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

She has 13+ years of experience in managing and implementing community-based public health projects and research in urban and rural Bangladesh. She is currently a PhD candidate in International Public Health at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK. She co-coordinates 3 modules of the MPH programme - *Introduction to Public Health*, *Health Systems Management*, and *Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. Her research interests include participatory research, action research, mixed-method research, health systems, health equity, intersectionality, gender, socio-political determinants of health, urban health, maternal and child health and humanitarian health systems. She has published 26 papers and 2 book chapters.



Dr Nahitun Naher Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (COE-HS&UHC)

She is a public health specialist with 8 years of expertise in designing and conducting public health including social science research. She coordinates the *Health Systems Management* module of the MPH programme at the School. Her research interests includes health system, health workforce, health equity, marginalized population, adolescent health, universal health coverage, health sector corruption, pharmaceutical promotion, pharmaceutical research and development, infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, road traffic injury, etc. She has around 15 peer-reviewed articles published in international journals.



Dr Mohammad Zahirul Islam, PhD Associate Professor

He is a climate change and health specialist and has 20 years of working experience in research, teaching and programme and health services. Dr Islam completed his PhD at Griffith University, Australia. He teaches and coordinates *Environment, Climate Change and Health* modules at the School. His research interests are climate change, the environment and public health broadly. Till now, apart from other issues, he published 20 papers on climate change, environment and health.



Dr Enam Hasib Deputy Director, MPH & Government Liaison

He has 14 years of experience in nutrition surveillance, research to knowledge translation, programme management and teaching. In his previous roles, he oversaw capacity-building efforts of government key decision-makers in applying evidence to specific policies and programmes in Bangladesh. He has around 15 peer-reviewed publications related to nutrition.



Atiya Rahman Senior Research Fellow

She has over 15 years of experience in qualitative research in the field of public health. She completed her MA in Anthropology at the University of Pune, India, and BSS and MSS in Anthropology at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh. Her research interests are SRHR, Nutrition, WASH, Early Childhood Development and various fields of qualitative research, and participatory methods. She has a total of 9 peer-reviewed articles in international journals.

Master of Public Health (MPH)



A full-time programme that has been offering transformative learning since January 2005 to develop next-generation public health leaders.

Our innovative methodologies engage students in experiential learning and urban-rural community-based fieldwork to strengthen their understanding of public health challenges in a developing world context. We also have a strong pool of global faculty from top academic institutions.

The programme has been recognised for its excellence in education by **Johns Hopkins University**, **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and **South-East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN)**.

Education Impact Nationally, Regionally, and Globally

Co-Host of 13th Annual Global Health Conference (2022) by Consortium of Universities for Global Health, USA

CUGH is a US-based platform of over 170 organisations around the world engaged in addressing global health challenges.

The School co-hosted the CUGH Conference with 8 other institutions and was the only organisation from South Asia.

Professor Sabina F Rashid was part of the Executive Planning Committee.





National Symposium

Transforming Bangladesh's Health Workforce for Sustainable Health Impact: Creating Holistic Public Health Learning Ecosystem (January 2022)



The aim of the virtual event was to discuss ways to move forward for transforming higher education curriculum across different departments within the consortium and other public health institutions.

17 public health experts and academicians from **8 academic** institutes of 4 countries presented with over **100 attendees**.

SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute Alliance

The School joined in 2020. Dean Professor Sabina F Rashid and Professor Malabika Sarker were invited to be members of the alliance. As part of the platform, Professor Rashid attended the **7th World One Health Conference (WOHC)** and **Temasek Foundation Pinnacle Partnership Series** in 2022.



Public Health Consortium



Established in 2020 by the School, the Consortium consists of public health departments and schools in 13 Universities in Bangladesh.

It was formed in the light of the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis to provide a platform to its university partners to **collaborate on and innovate online teaching and learning and community-based research designs to assist disadvantaged communities**.



For more information about Education, scan the QR code

MPH | Snapshots of Faculty

We have core full time faculty, who teach and coordinate courses in the MPH programme - Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors at the School (see pg 14 - 17). Below is a selected profile of visiting and adjunct Professors/faculty who contribute to the MPH programme (listed alphabetically).



Dr Alayne Adams, Canada

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Associate Professor, Department
of Family Medicine, **McGill
University**



Professor Tahmeed Ahmed, BD

Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Executive Director, **icddr,b**



Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, BD

Adjunct Professor
Faculty, International Health, **Johns
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health**



Dr Tasnim Azim, BD

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
President, **Naripokkho**



Dr Richard Cash, USA

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Senior Lecturer, Global Health and
Population, **Harvard T.H. Chan
School of Public Health, USA**
2006 Prince Mahidol Award
winner



Dr Timothy G Evans, Canada

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Associate Dean, School of
Population and Global Health,
Faculty of Medicine & Associate
Vice-Principal, Global Policy and
Innovation, **McGill University**



Miatta Gbanya, Liberia

Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH
Managing Systems in Crisis, **Ministry
of Health, Liberia**
MPH Graduate, BRAC JPGSPH, 7th
Cohort (2011)



Dr Nusrat Homaira, Australia

Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH
Senior Lecturer, School of
Women's and Children's Health,
**University of New South Wales
(UNSW), Sydney**



Dr M Mahub Latif, BD

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Professor of Applied Statistics at the
Institute of Statistical Research and
Training (ISRT), **University of Dhaka**



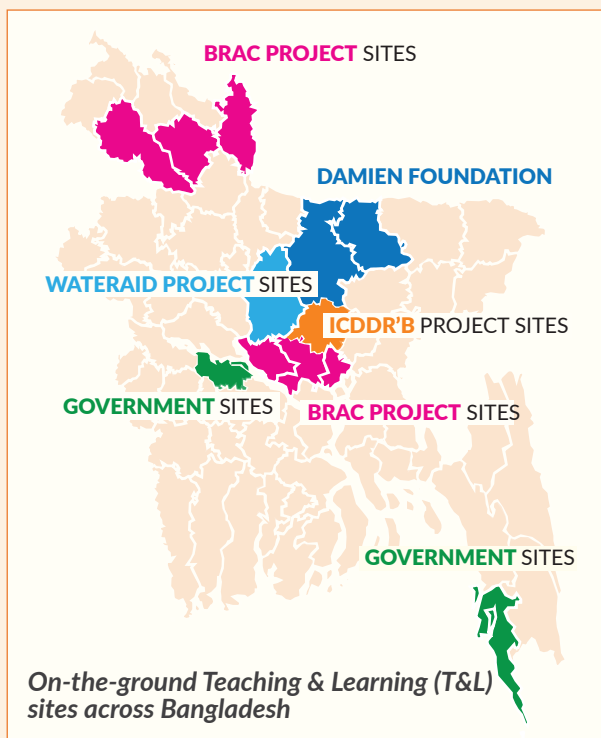
Dr Stephen P Luby, USA

Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH
Professor of Medicine (Infectious
Diseases) and Associate Dean for
Global Health Research, **Stanford
University, USA**

Along with a global faculty, we also have a diverse pool of students coming from over **34 countries** which makes for a unique experience of **ONE GLOBAL CLASSROOM**



MPH | Experiential Learning



The Master of Public Health (MPH) programme at the School places a strong emphasis on field visits as the programme centres around its **Experiential Community-Immersive teaching and learning through intensive urban and rural fieldwork**. The programme has an extensive network of **36 field sites** in Bangladesh, where students can conduct field visits as part of their coursework.



These sites cover a wide range of public health issues, including anthropology and public health, maternal and child health, infectious disease control, health systems strengthening, environment and climate change and related health vulnerabilities. This provides the students the opportunity to practically work in the community and visit service delivery organisations and health facilities which enhances their understanding of public health challenges in both rural and urban contexts.

MPH | Career Prospects

High Placement of the School's Graduates at international and national organisations, UN organisations and academic institutes across the globe.



Sara Baumann
5th Cohort (2009)
USA

Assistant Professor,
University of Pittsburgh
PhD from **University of Pittsburgh, USA**



Sabera Turkmani
7th Cohort (2011)
Afghanistan

Post-doctoral Research
Fellow, **University of Technology Sydney**



Md. M. Islam Bulbul
8th Cohort (2012)
Bangladesh

Programme Manager,
National Nutrition
Services, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh**



Dr Mrittika Barua
8th Cohort (2012)
Bangladesh

Assistant Professor,
Deputy Director, SISU,
BRAC JPGSPH
PhD from **Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands**



Bachera Aktar
8th Cohort (2012)
Bangladesh

Assistant Director,
CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH,
and Pursuing PhD in
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine



Lokesh Bhatt
9th Cohort (2013)
Nepal

Monitoring, Evaluation
and Learning Specialist,
The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP)



Zahir Hasan
9th Cohort (2013)
Bangladesh

Assistant Scientist,
Department of International Health,
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Carly Annabelle Comins
11th Cohort (2015)
USA

Sr. Research Program
Coordinator/
Data Analyst, **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**



Wagdi Ali Mohammed Mohsen
14th Cohort (2018)
Yemen

Reproductive Health
Coordinator, **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**



Lily Anna Miatta Kainwo
14th Cohort (2018)
Sierra Leone

One Health Officer,
Directorate of Health
Security and
Emergencies,
Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone



Rafael Jairah Jr D Matoy
16th Cohort (2020)
Philippines

Epidemiologist
Research Associate,
Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)



Vicki Ibbett
16th Cohort (2020)
United Kingdom

Core Psychiatry
Trainee, **National Health Service, England**

Building Education Networks Around the World

As of 2023, the School has **24** academic partners from all over the world.

The School has been collaborating with its academic partners on a regular basis to foster collaborative learning, facilitate exchange programmes and create opportunities for students and staff members.

South-South partnership



The School has engaged with Abebe Bekele, Dean, **University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda** in January 2023 to discuss academic partnership and student and faculty exchange programmes between the two institutions.

Regional partnerships



The School is in partnership with **University of Hong Kong (UHK)** to facilitate the exchange of faculty and students as well as co-developing courses.



Professor Rashid became a member of International Advisory Committee for the **Korean Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)** in November 2022.

Global partnerships



- The School and **City University of New York (CUNY), USA**, are jointly initiating Regional Hub on Population Health Informatics in March 2023.
- **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University**, organized a virtual internship and practicum fair for their students in February 2023 where the School also presented. 8 students from Harvard University expressed interest in pursuing internship at the School.
- The School signed an International Memorandum of Agreement with **University of Arizona, USA**, to build capacity of students through experiential learning opportunities and community-based field work.
- Professor Iman Hakim, Dean, Mel and Enid Zuckerman Endowed Chair in Public Health, **University of Arizona**, is in discussion with the School for internship opportunities for their students at the School.

The School has been awarded multiple prestigious grants for its continued contribution to public health.



The School is one of the 7 global academic institutions selected by Training in Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) Fellowship.

72 Students across 14 countries from our MPH programme have received the scholarship to date.

Diploma in Midwifery Programme (DMP)



This innovative educational initiative started its journey of developing competent and committed midwives in 2012.

Bangladesh has made a commitment to end preventable child and maternal deaths by 2030. An estimated 22,000 midwives will be required to meet the national need.

Co-funded by the UK government and BRAC, the project develops around 230 midwives every year in partnership with renowned local NGOs.

1589

Students Enrolled since 2012

380

Graduates in Upazila Health Complex, District Hospitals and Union Subcentres

460

Graduates in Private Hospitals and Clinics

156

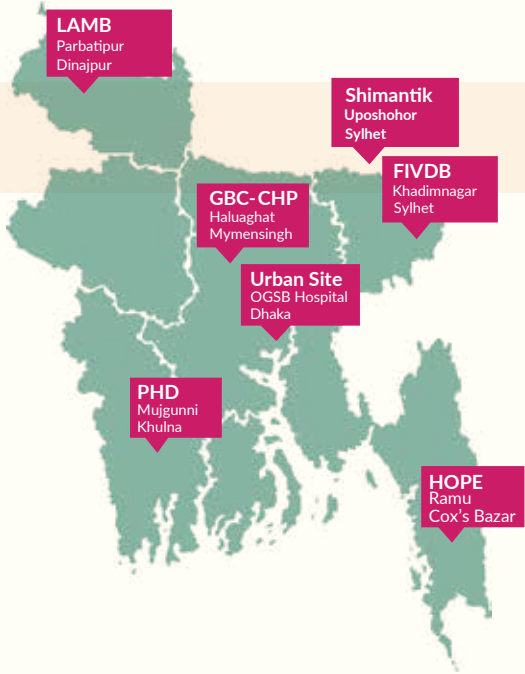
Midwives Serving at the Rohingya Camps



Midwife-led Care Centres

The School set up Midwife-Led Care Centres (MLCs) in collaboration with Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) in **2 Union Health and Family Welfare centres** and in **BRAC Maternity Clinic** in Dhaka.

From 2018 – 2022, **MLCs supported 5,846 women** to have normal deliveries.



Strategic Partnerships

The School partnered with **6 NGOs** working in remote areas of Bangladesh, for producing competent midwives and increasing access of disadvantaged young women to the education course.

The School built the capacity of the partners to maintain the standard of quality.



Key achievements in 2022

Community engagement



DMP students regularly engage with community initiatives to strengthen the understanding of sociocultural determinants and develop understanding of existing care providers.

8 modules involve community placements.

Nominated President at BMS



DMP graduate from the 2nd batch selected as the **President of Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS)**.

Research | Bringing Evidence To Practice

255+ National & Multi-Country Research Projects

Through the School's extensive global and national partnerships and networks, multi-disciplinary research teams lead the **5 Research Centres and 4 Research Hubs** covering a range of areas including: urban and rural health, socioeconomic development, poverty, marginalised communities (i.e. refugees, slum dwellers, ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, adolescents), infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, gender equity and rights, maternal and child health, urban equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, digital health, sexuality, violence against women and children, human rights, health systems and workforce, anti-microbial resistance, health equity, healthcare financing, and financial inclusion and wellbeing in urban and rural areas in the country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, The School has undertaken 45 rapid quantitative and qualitative research assessments and prepared 21 research briefs focusing on poor and vulnerable populations in Bangladesh.

See below the diverse range of research methodologies undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team at the School:



In order to address emerging and complex national and global health challenges, the School has also been conducting cutting-edge research that transcends disciplinary boundaries which recently includes emerging infectious diseases, climate change and environment, energy, health informatics, mental health, migration, passive cooling, genetic epidemiology, health technologies, artificial intelligence, and clinical research.

We work closely with **Government, BRAC, and other service delivery organisations, key stakeholders, civil society.** In addition, the School serves as the Secretariat for **Bangladesh Health Watch**, a multi-stakeholder civil society advocacy and monitoring network to inform health and rights, established in 2006. The Secretariat and our partnerships ensure that the evidence generated is translated into action.

5 Research Centres of Excellence



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

Lead: Professor Sabina F Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR

Established in 2008, the Centre promotes a broader understanding of gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh and the region through research, advocacy, and capacity-building activities. It generates and translates knowledge into advocacy-based action for social and structural changes.

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

Lead: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed Director, COE-HS&UHC

Established in 2012, the Centre generates evidence to inform key stakeholders on necessary health system interventions or modifying existing interventions. Research areas include universal health coverage, equity and social determinants of health, Human Resources for Health (HRH), pharmaceutical R&D, etc.



Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Lead: Professor Zahidul Quayyum Co-Director, CUEH, & Associate Professor Md. Tanvir Hasan Co-Director, CUEH

Established in 2013, the Centre addresses existing challenges of the urban health system to ensure equity for the urban poor. Research areas include climate change, environment, migration, strengthening of health systems, urban health governance, innovations in service delivery models, developing strategies for building equitable healthy cities, etc.

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

Lead: Assistant Professor Mrittika Barua, Deputy Director, CoE-SISU

Established in 2016, the Centre aims to link research and practice to accelerate the implementation and scale-up of health policies, programmes, and practices by emphasising partnerships between implementors, researchers, and stakeholders. Research areas include maternal, neonatal, child health, disability, health systems, vaccination, climate change, migration, etc.





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

Lead: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha Director, CNCDN

Established in 2017, the Centre develops research, training, guidelines, policy, partnership, and networking with the aim to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition in Bangladesh and the Global South. Research areas include NCDs, malnutrition, practices in clinical and population settings, etc.

4 Research and Policy Hubs

Humanitarian Hub

Lead: Professor Kaosar Afsana

Established in 2021, the Humanitarian Hub carries forward the humanitarian research that started at the School in 2018. The Hub conducts research in collaboration with the Centres of Excellence on the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and host populations to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve their health and well-being.



Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)

Focal person: Dr Mohammad Zahirul Islam, Associate Professor

Established in 2023, the hub offers teaching, programme design, and research efforts involving health, education, and the economy of climate change.

Hub for Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)

Focal person: Dr Ataur Rahman, Director, Centre for Professional Skills Development

Established in 2023, the hub engages in capacity building in accessing, acquiring, and making available public health practice and policy evidence.

Hub for Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)

Focal persons : Mittika Barua, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director, CoE-SISU, and **Barnali Chakraborty**, Associate Scientist

Established in 2023, the Hub aims to strengthen the capacity of junior and mid-level researchers and development practitioners in qualitative research.



Scan the QR code and see more about our Centres and Hubs

Research Impact Highlights:

Co-Production of Knowledge

Working with the Government of Bangladesh

The School has partnered with different ministries and bodies of the Government of Bangladesh, including the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Cabinet Division, Department of Social Services, MoHFW; to improve public health outcomes in the country. The partnership aims to develop and implement effective health policies, enhance health systems and provide quality health education and research to inform policies and programmes. Through these collaborations, the School works towards improving access to healthcare and reducing health inequalities in Bangladesh.

Introducing the First-Ever Model Pharmacy and Drug Shop Initiative

- The research was conducted to map private sector drug shops as part of the Bangladesh Pharmacy Model Initiative (BPMI) programme of Accredited Drug Seller (ADS) project in partnership with the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Management Science for Health (MSH)
- Based on the evidence, **a model pharmacy and drug shop initiative began and was later scaled up across all the districts in the country**



Prioritising Adolescent Nutrition in the 8th Five-Year Plan

- Research in 2020 on under and over-nutrition among adolescents in Bangladesh, with a cost-benefit analysis of **6 adolescent nutrition interventions**
- Presented evidence with **3 policy dialogues** to the government, policymakers and programme managers
- **Provided key findings** to the Planning Ministry for policy change

Exploring Feasibility of Implementing Trauma Registry (TR) and Trauma Systems Improvement Programme (TSIP) in District Hospitals of Bangladesh

- In 2021-2022, for the first time ever in Bangladesh, the School conducted the feasibility study of implementation of TR and TSIP in 4 districts (Bogra, Cumilla, Tangail and Jhenaidah) with high incidence of RTIs
- The study was conducted in partnership with the Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Evidence generated will facilitate GoB to scale up the TR and TSIP in health facilities in the country**



South Asia Biobank Strengthening Non- Communicable Disease Surveillance (2021 - 2023)

- **30 Surveillance sites** across Bangladesh to quantify cardiovascular diseases and Type 2 Diabetes burden and their risk factors through assessments on a representative sample of up to 30,000 people
- In partnership with the **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

Situation Analysis and Design Support for Enabling Digital Financial Inclusion and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme in Urban Areas

- The research was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, World Food Programme (WFP) and Lightcastle Partners
- Aims to understand the overall situation of **digital financial inclusion, women’s empowerment**, and digital cash, taking into account possible opportunities, the bottlenecks, and how to address them



Scaling-up of the GoB’s e-Tracker system for digital documentation of child vaccination

- Implementation research in 2021-2022 funded by UNICEF to document and explore the **app-based individual e-Tracker system used for vaccinating children** in areas of Dhaka and Moulvibazar and identify challenges, lessons learnt, solutions to scale-up, and success stories
- Training, resource mobilisation, field monitoring, challenges at the field level, and **acceptance of the new system by health managers, health workers and beneficiaries** were also reviewed

Developing and Testing of an Upazila-Specific Model of ‘Whole-of-Government’ and ‘Whole-of-Society’ Approaches for the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases

- Research funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning on **research and evaluation of the Government’s Multisectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2018-2025** at the upazila level
- Primary landscape analysis conducted in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district
- 85 qualitative interviews were conducted among Government officials, representatives of the local government, health workers, members of civil society, and other stakeholders of the upazila

Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities

- A multi-country research project funded by Wellcome Trust, being conducted in 6 cities of **5 countries (Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, UK, and China)**
- The project aims to **contribute to policies regarding the health impact of different urban environments, engage and build the capacity of stakeholders, and develop an analytical framework for Dhaka city**
- In September 2022, a series of “Knowledge Co-production Workshops for an Equitable Healthy Dhaka City” was organised to address the lack of women's participation in designing transport systems and air and noise pollution in Dhaka city. Additional secretaries from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Road Transport and Bridges Ministry, and Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change attended the workshops



Qualitative Assessment of Barriers to Female Birth and Death Registration in Bangladesh (CRVS)

- This study, **led by the Cabinet Division and supported by Vital Strategies (Singapore), aims to improve overall CRVS programme performance in Bangladesh**
- The study explored the experiences and perceptions of implementers, policymakers, and community members
- Using the findings, the School is now designing a gender-focused module to incorporate into the training curriculum for civil registration staff

Transforming Households with Refraction and Innovative Financial Technology (THRIFT)

- The project, in partnership **with the Department of Social Science, Ministry of Family and Welfare, aims to increase participation of the poor, elderly and widows in Bangladesh in accessing Old Age Allowance and Widow Allowance** to better manage finances through digital technology
- Through participation in the study, beneficiaries are expected to have improved digital literacy and the freedom to manage their own finances through the Bkash app for banking



Research Impact Highlights

Co-Production of Knowledge

Working with BRAC

The School continues to work in close collaboration with BRAC, which is the world's biggest NGO, reaching over 100 million people in Bangladesh and operating in 11 countries in Africa and Asia. The School collaborates with BRAC on a regular basis, generating evidence and policy recommendations on BRAC programmes.

In the last 5 years, the School has worked on 55+ projects with BRAC to translate evidence into action and policy.

ARISE | Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity



Multi-consortium grant in **4 countries** in Africa, Asia, and the UK, funded by **Global Challenges Research Fund, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)**

- Working in partnership with **BRAC Urban Development Programme**
- Working with communities in **3 urban informal settlements in Dhaka and 2 climate-affected settlements in Khulna and Satkhira**
- Jointly conducting community-based participatory research and GIS Mapping
- Co-production with **6 co-researchers living in the communities**; and building their capacity
- **3 regional-level workshops and 2 large-scale stakeholder engagements** - presenting evidence on urban informal settlement dwellers and gaps in service interventions
- Participants include: **Community members, BRAC field staff, representatives from Dhaka South and North City Corporation, Ward Councillors, Government agencies i.e. WASA, LGED, Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project (UPHCSDP), and other NGOs**

Assess future preparedness for pandemic management in Bangladesh

To assess the **future preparedness for pandemic management in Bangladesh**, the School is implementing a project with BRAC funded by UNFPA. The project is being conducted in 2 locations - Kishoreganj and Dhaka (declared red zone during the first wave of the pandemic) and Cox's Bazar as a hard-to-reach area. This project is an extension of the recently completed evaluation of Community Support Team (CST) intervention provided by BRAC in Cox's Bazar.



Journey towards Mobile Financial Services (MFS): The BRAC Community Health Worker (CHW) experience

- Funded by the Gates Foundation and in partnership with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- **Documentation of BRAC HNPP-CHW's transition from cash to MFS and scale up**
- Explored the CHWs' experience with a focus on time cost efficiency, mental health and women empowerment



Impact evaluation: Stay Safe Online Project



- The project by **BRAC Education Programme (BEP)** aims to educate students of Grades three to eight on internet safety. From October 2022 to February 2023, **the researchers at the School conducted an impact evaluation** and documented the process of implementing all significant activities from the initiation to the completion of the project
- 329 teachers were interviewed during baseline and endline studies as part of the quantitative component of the study
- 31 in-depth-interviews were conducted with teachers and students as part of the qualitative component of the study
- 8 key informant interviews were conducted with BEP officials, trainers, and government officials and 10 focus group discussions were conducted with teachers, parents, and the community during baseline and endline periods

Research on early childhood development in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh through Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL)

Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) is a play-based learning and healing model for Rohingya children aged 0-6 years old and their caregivers. The project is implemented by BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED) and BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) since 2019. During the last 5 years, the School has **conducted 9 process documentations and qualitative studies** for the HPL project. Recommendations from these studies have been incorporated by BRAC IED to improve various programme areas.



Research Impact Highlights Neglected Communities

Structurally silenced women and girls

Women and adolescents' health has been at the forefront of research at the School. The School has been addressing and generating evidence on crucial issues including SRHR, menstruation, maternal and neonatal and nutrition, adolescent health, cyber safety, and violence against women.



Adolescent girls

- Research on adolescent girls' challenges related to menstruation with **Burnet Institute, Australia** (2022 - 2025)
- Quantifying effects of menstrual health on girls' education, physical health, mental health, and reproductive health over time

Indigenous women

- Assessing digital financial inclusion and economic empowerment with **WFP Bangladesh** (2022)
- Amplifying voices and visibility in online and public spaces with **CREA** (2022)

Victims of human trafficking

- Disrupting cross-border trafficking for sexual exploitation through Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership through research project with **Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)** (2020 - 2022)

Gender-diverse communities

In order to contribute to the empowerment of gender-diverse communities and to help foster a space for their voices to be heard, the School has been actively conducting research in partnership with national and international organisations since 2015.



- **Documenting movement-building** for realising the rights of gender-diverse communities with **Share-Net International** (2017 & 2022)
- **Fellowship** provided to 6 gender-diverse individuals with **CREA** (2020)
- Art for Advocacy initiative in partnership with gender-diverse individuals to empower their voices, supported by **CREA** (2022)

Persons with disabilities (PWD)

The School has undertaken several projects focused on the creation of new knowledge on disability and explore the needs and rights of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in context of SDGs and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



- The School co-produced with **community researchers** to conduct research on **youth with disability in a project with Sightsavers, UK**. Findings shared with the **State Minister of Social Welfare** (2022)
- Research in collaboration with Leonard Cheshire on **impact of COVID-19 on education of children with disabilities** during school closures in Narsingdi, Taras, and Sirajganj (2022)
- The School conducted a nationwide study on SRHR of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh (2020 to 2022) in partnership with the **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh**.

Other Research Impact Highlights :

Co-Production of Knowledge



Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban Health Systems (CHORUS)

- Funded by FCDO, UK, CHORUS is a multi-country research programme consortium being implemented in **4 countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, Nigeria)** that aims to **strengthen urban health systems** by addressing practical challenges of delivering equitable health services
- In 2022, a series of consultation workshops were arranged with urban health experts, health policymakers, and health care providers to get their ideas, viewpoints, and suggestions for strengthening the urban primary health care system in Bangladesh
- Several webinars and training courses were arranged during 2022 on topics such as Implementation research, Quasi-Experimental research methods, Quantitative Data analysis using R, Gender and intersectionality, and Health facility assessment

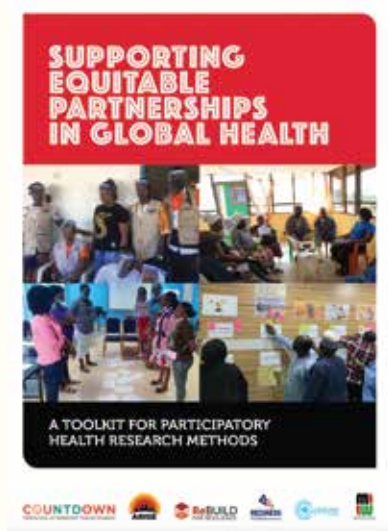
Managing impact of COVID-19 in Rohingya camps and Host Communities with technological solutions

Funded by IDRC, Canada, the project aims to -

- Undertake an audit of functioning services to which people of Rohingya and host communities can be referred and establish clear referral protocols
- **Contextually adapt Dimagi's contact tracing app to identify high-risk areas for COVID-19 transmission** within camps and surrounding host communities
- **Contextually adapt Dimagi's CommCare MNCH App for COVID-19 and assess its effectiveness** in improving Sexual and Reproductive Health and Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health outcomes in the Rohingya camps and in host communities
- Build capacities of BRAC midwives and Community Health Workers (CHW) through in-person and online training and with support from BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP)



Toolkit for Participatory Health Research Methods



ARISE project contributed to developing **Toolkit for Participatory Health Research Methods**, with consortium partners in 2021. Partners include: 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); George Institute for Global Health, India; 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**.

This toolkit provides step by step guidelines for all researchers undertaking community-based participatory research, ensuring equitable and meaningful engagement with communities.

Digital Health and Rights - Participatory Action Research

The Digital Health and Rights Advisory Group is a consortium of anthropologists, human rights lawyers, and global networks of civil society activists who are working together in a participatory action research approach that combines ethnographic research, reflection, analysis and policy engagement. The group addresses HIV, TB, COVID-19 and sexual and reproductive health in Kenya, Ghana, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Colombia.

As the country partner in Bangladesh, the School's faculty and researchers work to assess what legal and policy frameworks are used to implement these digital tools, how they are governed, how human rights concerns are addressed, and how integrated youth and civil society are in decision-making for these tools. One of the major focuses of the group's activity is empowering transnational youth activist networks with the knowledge, networks, and opportunities to raise recommendations in health policy in national and global health governance.

Along with the School, other partners are: Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute, Geneva Project Partners: Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), Kenya Ethical & Legal Issues Network on HIV & AIDS (KELIN), STOPAIDS, UK, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare Education at University of Oslo and Universidad de los Andes, Colombia are partners in the project. Project Fondation Botnar and Open Society University Network (OSUN) are funding the project.



International Peer-Reviewed Research Publications

Sharing Evidence Nationally, Regionally, Globally

840+ Peer-Reviewed
Publications since 2004

155 Peer-Reviewed Publications
from 2021 to 2022

840+ peer-reviewed publications have been published in **international journals** as well as peer-reviewed book chapters since the School's inception in late 2004.



Selected publications

A Social Cure for COVID-19: Importance of Networks in Combatting Socio- Economic and Emotional Health Challenges in Informal Settlements in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Authors: **Selima Sara Kabir**, **Amal Chowdhury**, Julia Smith, Rosemary Morgan, Clare Wenham and **Sabina Faiz Rashid**

Published: 24 February 2023 in **Social Sciences**



Scan the code
to access

Factors affecting motivation of close-to-community sexual and reproductive health workers in low-income urban settlements in Bangladesh: A qualitative study

Authors: Ilias Mahmud, Sumona Siddiqua, Irin Akhter, **Malabika Sarker**, Sally Theobald, **Sabina Faiz Rashid**

Published: 13 January 2023 in **PLOS One**



Scan the code
to access

Amplifying Resilient Communities: Identifying Resilient Community Practices to Better Inform Health System Design

Authors: Romit Raj, Babitha George, Cristin Marona, Rebecca West, Anabel Gomez, Tracy Pilar Johnson, Aditya Prakash, Sunny Sharma, Ayushi Biyani, **Mrittika Barua**, Cal Bruns

Published: 29 December 2022 in **Ethnographic Praxis In Industry Conference**



Scan the code
to access

Assessment of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Models in Health Systems in Least Developed, Low Income and Lower-Middle-Income Countries and Territories: A Protocol for a Systematic Review



Scan the code to access

Authors: **Baby Naznin, Zahidul Quayyum, Jannatun Tajree**, Deepa Barua, Maisha Ahsan, Faisal Kabir, Deepak Joshi, Sampurna Kakchapati, Florence Sibeudu, Juliana Onuh, Chukwuedozie Ajaero, Chinyere Okeke, Prince Agwu, Pamela Adaobi Ogbozor, Abena Engmann, Bassey Ebenso, Su Golder, Aishwarya Vidyasagan, Helen Elsey

Published: 29 September 2022 in **Health Care: Current Reviews**

Effects of prenatal nutritional supplements on gestational weight gain in low- and middle-income countries: a meta-analysis of individual participant data



Scan the code to access

Authors: Enju Liu, Dongqing Wang, Anne Marie Darling, Nandita Perumal, Molin Wang, Tahmeed Ahmed, Parul Christian, Kathryn G. Dewey, Gilberto Kac, Stephen Kennedy, Vishak Subramoney, Brittany Briggs, Wafaie W. Fawzi, and members of the GWG Pooling Project Consortium* (**Abu Ahmed Shamim** and Malay Kanti Mridha from the School)

Published: 21 August 2022 in **The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition**



Viral Loads:
Anthropologies of urgency in the time of COVID-19



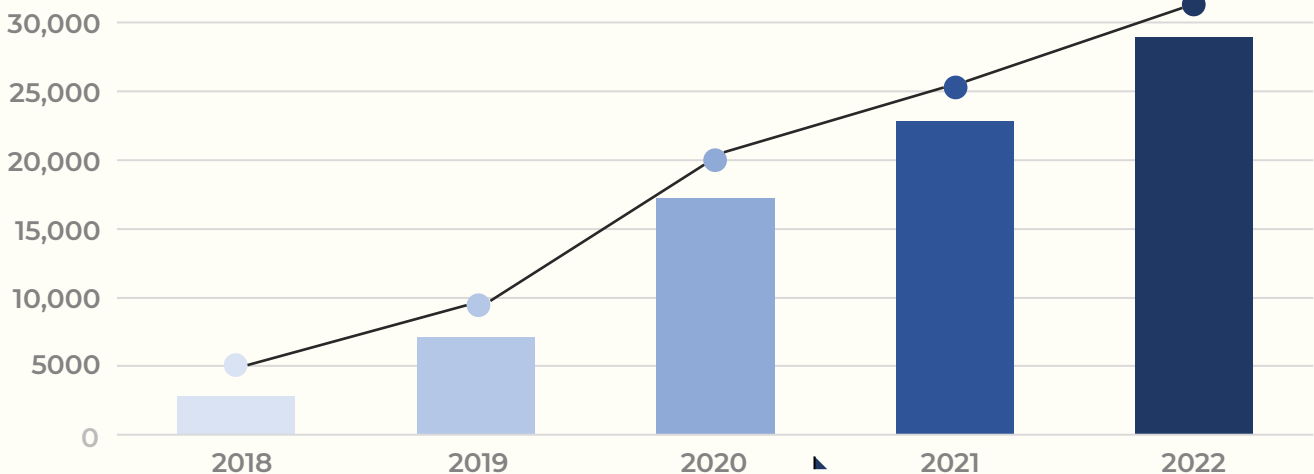
Digital Health and Rights in Bangladesh and Colombia

Researchers from School contributed to this **inception paper** by the Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute, Geneva (2022) representing Bangladesh.

Researchers: Farzana Misha, Syed Hassan Imtiaz, Afrida Faiza, Sabina Faiz Rashid

BRAC JPGSPH Author Citations

Researchers at the School are authoring and co-authoring a large number of peer-reviewed articles in international journals. Our faculty members have been cited more than 79,000 times in the last 5 years alone.



Impacting Policies, Programmes and Practices Nationally, Regionally and Globally

Evidence generation for impacting change in policies, practices, and programmes is an integral part of all research conducted by the School.

300+

Active Engagements with Multi- Stakeholders, including BRAC and the Government

244+

News Articles and Blogs Published since 2020

55+

Webinars on Multiple Themes

Selected engagements



In partnership with the University of Groningen, Netherlands, the conference aimed to stimulate closer cooperation and knowledge exchange in food security, agricultural development, health and nutrition, and women empowerment. 65+ experts and educators attended the event that took place in November 2022.

International Conference on Impact of COVID-19 (January 2022)

Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic for the future of healthcare systems in low and middle-income countries



31 Global Experts from **18** Countries

From 19-21 January 2022, the School and Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) jointly hosted this virtual conference. Global and national experts from around the world joined virtually to discuss the lessons learnt and reflect on what needs to be done to address the critical gaps as we move forward, particularly the challenges and opportunities of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Scan the QR code for more information on our COVID-19 research





3-D Commission: Better Decision-Making for Health

As **Member of the 3-D Commission Global Board**, funded by the **Rockefeller Foundation**, Professor Sabina F Rashid contributed to the report “**Data, social determinants, and better decision-making for health**” in 2022, and presented in regional and global dialogues on determinants of health and better decision-making in health.

Health Campaign Effectiveness (HCE) online platform

The School conducted a **retrospective study on immunisation related campaign integration** in Bangladesh in 2021-2022, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. With the findings, the website was launched in 2022 to generate evidence that will inform key programmatic, process or policy improvements in service of improved campaign delivery.



Consultation workshop on upazila-specific intervention model of ‘Whole-of-Government’ and ‘Whole-of-Society’ approach for Non-Communicable Diseases prevention and control

Professor Malay Kanti Mridha and his team held a **consultation workshop** in February 2023 **with 36 representatives from upazila-level health officials, local administration and members of the civil society** in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district.

Empowering Marginalised Voices for Change

Selected engagements



Partnership at South Asian Regional Film Festival in 2022

It featured **13 national and international** short films, documentaries, and feature films on gender-based discrimination and violence, transphobia, and breaking the gender binaries from **India, Bangladesh and Nepal**. The School contributed to making this possible.

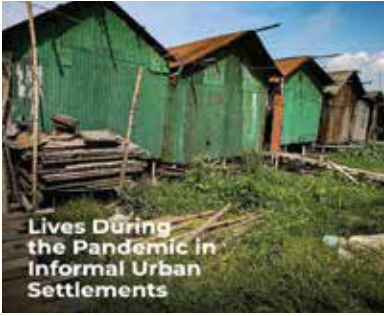


Photo narrative: 'Lives During the Pandemic in Informal Urban Settlement'

Developed by BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) and ARISE team at the School, it shares the stories of 12 individuals representing diverse marginalised communities, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, female household heads, and informal workers.



Scan to read



Art exhibition with gender-diverse communities: 'Osmosis Between Realities'

The art exhibition brought together gender-diverse individuals who featured paintings, performance arts and art installations; to showcase their struggles, barriers, and challenges. Various diplomats and gender rights activists were present at the event.

Raising Awareness to Impact Social Change

Selected campaigns



Educational videos on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

10 videos were produced in 2022 on early marriage, pregnancy, infertility, family planning, puberty, sexual harassment, menstrual health, etc.



Scan to watch



Not Fair Enough: Discrimination Based on Skin Colour

Developed in 2021, the documentary explored colourism in Bangladesh.



Scan to watch



Respecting Boundaries: Understanding Consent

The video was developed in 2021 to increase knowledge and conceptual clarity among young people on issues of consent and choice in the context of SRHR.



Scan to watch

These materials have been disseminated to all of our partner networks and are accessible on our website

For more information about impact on policies, programmes, and practices, scan the QR code



Training | Enhancing Skills of Professionals

The Centre for Professional Skills Development (CPSD) enables the continuation of education for professionals by crosscutting across the themes of the 5 Research Centres of Excellence and the 4 Policy and Research Hubs.

Established in 2007, CPSD, the School's international training hub, strengthens and upgrades the requisite professional skills utilised by practitioners, policymakers, development partners, Government officials, public advocates, educators, researchers and frontline health workers.

270+ Professional Skills Short Courses

325+ Global Facilitators

Research capacity building

Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method research methodologies, systematic review, implementation research, and data analysis using statistical tools

Leadership and management in public health

Governance and leadership, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and economic evaluation of programmes

Introduction to emerging public health issues

Urban health, climate change, food safety and security, and malnutrition

Gender diversity training

Countering Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and sensitisation on diverse sexualities

CPSD provides practical skill-based training for relevant public health priorities and encourages solution-oriented thinking to address practical and real-world challenges.

The Skills Building Workshops & Short Courses offered by the School include a wide range of participants including Government officials, medical doctors, senior health education officers, senior staff nurses, researchers, statisticians, NGO and INGO sector specialists, development practitioners, programme officers and managers, academics, activists, and more.

7700+ Professionals Trained



Selected Training



Basic Quantitative Research Methods, Data Analysis, and Report Writing using STATA

Professionals from **10 countries** trained



Capacity Building Training on “Evaluation of Development Programme” for Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) Officials

20 Government officials trained



Training of Primary Healthcare Providers Working in Rohingya Camps in Cox’s Bazar

409 professionals trained during the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh



Training on Implementation Science

Two workshops took place in August 2022 which were attended by **15 officials from the World Health Organization (WHO)**



Training on Qualitative Research

Two workshops were taken by Dr Shahaduz Zaman, Professor in Medical Anthropology and Global Health, University of Sussex, UK. A total of **39 participants from icddr,b, Nutrition International and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC)** attended.



Course on Implementation Science

The course was based on lessons learned from the Polio Eradication Initiative and was organised as a part of the Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations in Polio Eradication (STRIPE) project. **11 officials from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Government of Bangladesh** attended.



For more information about Training, scan the QR code

Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

Secretariat at BRAC JPGSPH since 2006

Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) is a multi-stakeholder civil society advocacy and monitoring network dedicated to improving the health system in Bangladesh through critical reviews of policies and programmes and recommendations of appropriate actions for change.

It was established in 2006 with the aim to monitor progress in health and health systems impacting the people of Bangladesh, and play a catalytic role in making lasting changes in the health sector. A Working Group consisting of researchers and activists from different organisations carries out the different activities for BHW. Professor Sabina F Rashid and Professor Syed Masud Ahmed are Working Group Members of BHW.

The School serves as the Secretariat for BHW since its inception

Selected activities



To document the success of the country's health sector, Bangladesh Health Watch published a book '**Swadhinotar Ponchas Bochor: Bangladesh Shastho Khater Bikash**' in 2022. A total of 101 authors from home and abroad contributed to the book.



BHW introduced **Citizen's Voice where citizens can ask questions and submit queries about health services**. Through the national helpline number 333, citizens can ask questions through phone calls. In collaboration with a2i, answers to the questions are collected from DGHS.



Capacity-building training for District Health Rights Forum and Districts Health Rights Youth Forum members was organised in 8 regional chapters. The objective was to enrich their knowledge of primary and secondary health service structure, local-level advocacy approaches and techniques.



Capacity-building initiative: training on "Effective Health Reporting" for local journalists in 8 regional chapters was jointly conducted by BHW and District Health Rights Forum in 2022. 120 district correspondents of national media participated in the training.



BHW in collaboration with Chatham House and UNICEF Bangladesh in 2022 organised a roundtable discussion on Universal Health Coverage and engagement of civil society. The discussion focused on opportunities, challenges, and priorities in health financing at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level.



Pre-budget dialogue was organised by BHW and Unnayan Shamannay in 2022 at The Daily Star. The dialogue focused on **higher budget allocation under the health sector in the National Budget**.



BHW and Unnayan Shamannay jointly organised an **opinion exchange event on Health Budget** in January 2023 where Former Secretary of the Ministry of Planning Md Mamun-al-Rashid was present as the Chief Guest.



BHW organized a **conference on “Emerging Challenges to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh”** in December 2022 which brought together leading global and national experts, policymakers, civil society activists, and other stakeholders to discuss and debate emerging SRHR challenges in Bangladesh.



BHW organized an advocacy meeting on November 2022 **to raise demands of the grassroots communities through the District Health rights Forum (DHRF)** by sharing their health rights issues. Local level service-providing institutions, civil societies, watchdog bodies for health and Health Rights Forum (HRF), and policymakers were present at the event.



Policy Brief “Reviewing Health Sector Allocation (Budget 2022-23)” was published by BHW in August 2022 as part of **evidence-based advocacy on health sector expenditure in Bangladesh**. Its findings and recommendations are expected to inform policymakers on improvements in the health budget to reduce the burden of health expenditure on the citizens.



In March 2022, BHW published a report titled **“COVID-19 in Bangladesh: The First Two Years and Looking Ahead”**. The report covered different aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of Bangladesh. People’s knowledge, attitude and practice, risk communication, health system, and other civil society responses and governance during COVID-19 were also covered.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)



Donor Support (Past 3 Years)





The School's Journey at a Glance

2004

The School was founded with the vision to create a leading global public health institute

2006

1st Cohort of the MPH programme graduated
The School started serving as the Secretariat for Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

2007

Established the Centre for Professional Skills Development (CPSD)
Featured by WHO as one of the region's top 6 public health schools

2013

Established the Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

2012

Launched the Developing Midwives Project, Bangladesh's first-ever private sector midwifery education initiative

2008

Established the Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Established the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

2016

Established the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

2017

Established the Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

2018

The Dean and the Associate Dean of the School were recognised as 'Heroines of Health' by GE Healthcare and Women in Global Health

2023

Established 3 new Research Hubs:
1. Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)
2. Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)
3. Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)

2021

Established the Humanitarian Research Hub

2019

Received the Public Health Education Leadership Award by the South-East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN)

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health

6th, 7th & 9th Floor, Medona Tower, 28 Mohakhali Commercial Area

Bir Uttom A K Khandakar Road, Dhaka - 1213, Bangladesh

Telephone: +880-2-48812213-18

Email: jpgsph.comms@bracu.ac.bd | www.bracjpgsph.org



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