

**PERSONAL
INFORMATION****Bachera Aktar**

Assistant Director

The Center of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University Dhaka,
Bangladesh

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E-mail: bachera.aktar@bracu.ac.bd; bacheraaktar@gmail.com<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bachera-aktar-bd/>**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in Global Health (Ph.D. student)	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK.
Master of Public Health	James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
M.Sc. in Food and Nutrition	College of Home Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
B.Sc. Honours in Food and Nutrition Science	College of Home Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

KEY SKILLS/EXERTIES

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- Eight years' experience (including five years in leadership position) of implementing BRAC's (the largest Bangladeshi NGO) community-based public health programs in rural and urban areas in Bangladesh.
 - More than four years' experience of designing and conducting medium to large scale public health research on sexual and reproductive health, urban health system and health services in humanitarian setting in Bangladesh.
 - Expertise include reproductive and sexual health, maternal, child and adolescent health and nutrition, health system and management, mixed method research, participatory research, implementation research, monitoring and evaluation, healthcare services in humanitarian crisis setting and capacity development of community health workers.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2020 – continuing	Co-Investigator. <i>“Bridging Communities in Cox’s Bazar: Mitigating Risks and Promoting Gender, Governance and Localization of Humanitarian Responses in COVID-19 Era”</i> . A three year research project funded by IDRC, Canada. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
August 2019 – continuing	Assistant Director, The Center of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
October 2019 – June 2020	Co-Principle Investigator (Bangladesh). <i>“Exploring the feasibility of collecting a core set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services and outcomes in humanitarian settings”</i> . A multi-country research project lead by University of Ottawa, Canada and funded by WHO. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
December 2018 – continuing	Co- Principal Investigator (Bangladesh), <i>“ARISE Hub: Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Urban Settlements for Equity in Health and Well- being”</i> , a multi-country five year research project lead by Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK and funded by UKRI. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
May – December 2018	Co-Investigator and Project Coordinator (Bangladesh). <i>“Situation Analysis and Assessment of Implementation of Integrated Comprehensive SRHR Services for Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh”</i> . A multi-country research project funded by WHO. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
January 2017 – July 2019	Senior Coordinator, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. Co-Investigator and Project Coordinator. <i>“Digital Sister for the Urban Youth: Using New Technology for Effective SRHR Communication for Urban Youth of Bangladesh”</i> . A research project funded by NOW-WOTRO, The Netherlands. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

October 2014 - December 2016	Project Lead. Health, Nutrition and Population Program, BRAC, Bangladesh. “ <i>Alive & Thrive’s Integration of Maternal Nutrition Interventions into BRAC MNCH Program in Bangladesh</i> ” (Alive & Thrive Phase II); an implementation research project conducted in 10 sub-districts in Bangladesh.
April 2015 - December 2016	Programme Manager. Health, Nutrition and Population Program, BRAC, Bangladesh. Managed overall implementation of two projects - BRAC Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival project implemented in 14 districts; and Integrated Early Childhood Development project implemented in six sub-districts in Bangladesh.
August 2013 - March 2015	Senior Manager. Health, Nutrition and Population Program BRAC, Bangladesh. Managed overall implementation of Maternal Nutrition project and Integrated Early Childhood Development project, and supervised implementation of Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival Project at six districts in Bangladesh
June 2010 - July 2013	Senior Sector Specialist. Improving Maternal, Neonatal and Child Survival Project, Health, Nutrition and Population Program BRAC, Bangladesh
November 2009 - May 2010	Sub-district Manager. Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival (IMNCS) Project under BRAC Health Program, Mymensingh, Bangladesh.
November 2008 - October 2009	Young Professional Trainee. Young Professional Program under BRAC Training Division (BTD). One year long intensive leadership development program.
December 2007 - February 2008	Research Assistant. BRAC Health Program, Bangladesh. “ <i>Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative in Maternal and Child Health (MNI MCH)</i> ” Project under Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) Program of BRAC, a study conducted jointly with icddr,b in Nilphamari (a northern district), Bangladesh

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Faculty and Course Co-coordinator (January 2017 to continuing)	Master of Public Health at Jams P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh Three modules – Introduction to Public Health, Health System Management, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Thesis Co-supervisor (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)	Summative Learning Project (SLP) – group thesis of Master of Public Health (MPH) at BRAC Jams P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five students on the theme ‘Assessment of Midwifery Practice in Bangladesh’ in 2015 • Six students on the theme ‘Adolescent nutrition and household food security in Urban Slum, Bangladesh’ in 2017 • Five students on the theme ‘Reproductive health of Rohingya refugee adolescent girls living in the refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh’ in 2018 • Six students on the theme ‘Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Bangladesh’ in 2019 • Five students on the theme ‘Impact of COVID-19 among urban informal settlement dwellers and sex workers’ in 2020
Guest Lecturer (2014 to 2016)	Master of Public Health at Jams P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights course

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL PAPERS

1. “Challenges and strategies in conducting sexual and reproductive health research among Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh”. *Conflict and Health* (2020) 14:83. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13031-020-00329-2>
2. “Ethics and Methods for Collecting Sensitive Data: Examining Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of and Services for Rohingya Refugees at Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh”. *International Journal of Information, Diversity and Inclusion* on its special issue ‘*Forced Migration: Making a Sense of a Complex Ecosystem*’. 4(2), 2020. DOI: 10.33137/ijidi.v4i2.33150. <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/ijidi/article/view/33150>
3. “How to prevent and address safeguarding concerns in global health research programmes: practice, process and positionality in marginalised spaces”. *BMJ Global Health*, 2020;5:e002253. doi:10.1136/ bmjgh-2019-002253. <https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/5/e002253>

4. “Maternal nutrition intervention and maternal complications in 4 districts of Bangladesh: A nested cross-sectional study”. *PLoS Medicine*. 16(10): e1002927. October 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002927>
5. “Situation analysis for delivering integrated comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in humanitarian crisis condition for Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh: protocol for a mixed-method study”. *BMJ Open*. Volume 9, Issue 7: e028340. July 2019. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-028340>
6. “Assessing informed consent practices during normal vaginal delivery and immediate postpartum care in tertiary-level hospitals of Bangladesh”. *European Journal of Midwifery*, May 2019; Volume 3, Issue 10. <https://doi.org/10.18332/ejm/109311>
7. “Nutrition Interventions Integrated into an Existing Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Program Reduce Food Insecurity Among Recently Delivered and Pregnant Women in Bangladesh”. *The Journal of nutrition*, Volume 149, Issue 1, January 2019, Pages 159-166. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/nxy249>
8. “Engagement of Husbands in a Maternal Nutrition Program Substantially Contributed to Greater Intake of Micronutrient Supplements and Dietary Diversity during Pregnancy: Results of a Cluster-Randomized Program Evaluation in Bangladesh”. *The Journal of Nutrition*, Volume 148, Issue 8, August 2018, Pages 1352–1363. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jn/nxy090>
9. “Importance of coverage and quality for impact of nutrition interventions delivered through an existing health programme in Bangladesh”. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*, Volume 14, Issue 4, March 2018. <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1111/mcn.12613>
10. “Nutrition Interventions Integrating into an Existing Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Program Increased Maternal Dietary Diversity, Micronutrient Intake, and Exclusive Breastfeeding Practices in Bangladesh: Results of a Cluster-Randomized Program Evaluation”. *The Journal of Nutrition*. Volume 147, Issue 12, December 2017. Pages 2326-2337. <https://doi.org/10.3945/jn.117.257303>
11. “Factors influencing maternal nutrition practices in a large scale Maternal, Newborn and Child Health program in Bangladesh”. *PLoS ONE*. Volume 12, Issue 7: e0179873. July 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0179873>
12. “The nutrition and health risks faced by pregnant adolescents: Insights from a cross-sectional study in Bangladesh”. *PLoS ONE*, Volume 12, Issue 6: e0178878. June 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0178878>
13. “Integrating Nutrition-focused Behavior Change Communication and Community Mobilization into Existing Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Platform Improved Consumption of Diversified Foods and Micronutrients and Exclusive Breastfeeding Practices in Bangladesh: Results of a Cluster-randomized Program Evaluation”. *The FASEB Journal*, Volume 31, Issue 1 (Supplement), April 2017, Pages 786.47. http://www.fasebj.org/content/31/1_Supplement/786.47
14. “A Controlled Before-and-After Perspective on the Improving Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Survival Program in Rural Bangladesh: An Impact Analysis”. *PLoS ONE*, Volume 11, Issue 9: e0161647. September 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0161647>
15. “Exploring Adolescent Reproductive Health Knowledge, Perceptions, and Behavior, Among Students of Non-Government Secondary Schools Supported by BRAC Mentoring Program in Rural Bangladesh”. *Journal of Asian Midwives*. Volume 1, Issue 1, September 2014, Pages 17–33. <http://ecommons.aku.edu/jam/vol1/iss1/4>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Book chapter:** “Chapter 5: Reproductive Health Care in Rohingya Refugee Camps”. Bangladesh Health Watch 2018-19: Humanitarian Crisis in Rohingya Camps - A Health Perspective. February 2020. Page 53-68. <https://bhw2020.blogspot.com/?fbclid=IwAR2urxXiJT8rikk5AnZQs0jX1DfTIKPC-IHFpuOgIXkxzh-c-wmRbg54gpc>
2. **Magazine:** “Am I okay? Research-led insights into the provision of sexual and reproductive health information for youth in the digital age”. dBRIEF, 2nd Issue, January 2019. <http://www.brac.net/images/downloads/dBRIEF-2nd-issue.pdf>
3. **Book:** “The Effects of Mainstreaming Nutrition and Early Childhood Development under BRAC’s Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Programme: A Mixed-Methods Impact Evaluation in Bangladesh”. BRAC Research and Evaluation Division. January 2018. https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://research.brac.net/new/publications/download/671_93650677044cbc059843c7d09a7408b2&a=gt
4. **Newsletter:** “Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Initiatives: A community-based Intervention to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Rural Bangladesh.” WHO Newsletter named “Health in South-East Asia”, September 2011. A SEARO Newsletter. RC Edition. Vol 4, No 2, page 16-18. http://www.searo.who.int/mediacentre/newsletters/hisea/rc64_hisea.pdf?ua=1