

## **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (CGSRHR)**

### **Research Projects (2019)**

1. HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: A Qualitative Evaluation of BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) Model in Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Technical Advisor: AKM Mazharul Islam, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH; Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR

Timeline: February 2019 – December 2023

Objective: This study aims to understand what makes the HPL model unique in the Rohingya refugee camp setting.

- Explore and document the life history and experiences of Rohingya families, learn indigenous knowledge, attitudes and practices of the community in terms of ECD and play-based learning
- Evaluate HPL's impact on learning, healing and coping of children, children's acceptance of HPL and play based learning
- Observe how Rohingya cultural aspects and practices are being preserved through the model and what impact it has on social cohesiveness.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

2. HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: Health Seeking Behaviour for SRH Services of Rohingya Women in Rohingya Camps of Cox's Bazar: An Ethnographic Study

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow (former)

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR; Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH; AKM Mazharul Islam, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate

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

Timeline: 18 March 2019 – 31 July 2019

Objective: The aim of this ethnographic assessment was to investigate the women's and community perceptions and behaviours influencing healthcare-seeking practices related to pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care and family planning.

- To understand the socio-cultural and religious beliefs and practices around pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care and family planning
- To understand the decision-making process of family dynamics with regards to seeking antenatal, delivery, postpartum and newborn care
- To identify the challenges in health-seeking for pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care and family planning services from providers as well as women's perspectives

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: World Health Organization (WHO)

Partner: World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh

### 3. A study of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh

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

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR

Coordinator: Irin Akhter, Deputy Project Coordinator

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

Timeline: December 2018 to May 2020

Objectives:

- To understand SRHR needs, knowledge about SRHR, SRH sufferings, perception around sex and sexuality and barriers in accessing SRH services for PWDs in Bangladesh through primary research
- Secondary review of existing interventions and/or services relevant to SRHR of PWDs, identify gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services and recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services
- Review existing laws and policies relevant to SRHR and disability in Bangladesh and explore barriers to the implementation of laws and policies and recommend strategies for improvement

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of Netherlands

Partners:

- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Ministry of Health
- Family Welfare (MoHFW) is providing technical assistance

### 4. Countering Backlash and Reclaiming Gender Justice

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

Coordinator: Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; Aisha Siddika, Sr. Researcher

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

Timeline: October 2019 -2024

Objective:

- Understanding the backlash against women's rights and gender justice
- Addressing the erosion of gender agendas, their co-option and its stereotyping effects
- Advancing new opportunities for women's movements and rights defenders to reclaim gender justice
- Enhance the understanding and capacities needed – and identify opportunities – for women's rights organisations and other gender justice defenders

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Partners: Leading institute - Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Partner countries/ regions - India, Brazil, UK, Kenya, Uganda and Middle East regions.

#### 5. Mobilizing for a Research Revolution to Ensure LGBTIQ Inclusion in Asia: A High-impact, Transformative International Partnership (MFARR-Asia)

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR; Peter Newman (University of Toronto)

Co-PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR; Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator; Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant

Coordinator: Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant

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

Timeline: November 2019 – March 2024

Objectives:

- To generate a shared understanding of characteristics and priorities of LGBTIQ inclusion in six sectors: education, employment, family, violence/security, health and political participation
- To measure and monitor LGBTIQ inclusion in four countries (India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Hong Kong) over time
- To identify model programs and initiatives, and good practices to support LGBTIQ inclusion

- To increase access to and use of knowledge by community-based organization (CBO) and intergovernmental organization (IGO) partners through innovative knowledge mobilization, including participatory video

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Partners:

- Oboyob – Diversity Circle
- Bandhu Social Welfare Society

#### 6. HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: Learning Through Play: Looking into Play Lab in Government Primary School of Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Mrinmoy Samadder, Sr. Research Fellow

Coordinator: Mrinmoy Samadder, Sr. Research Fellow

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

Timeline: 15 September 2019 - January 2020

Objectives:

- To illustrate the lessons learnt in mainstreaming play based learning model among 4-5 year old children in Government Primary School

Specific objectives:

- To understand the perspectives of community and key stakeholders about play based learning model
- To describe the changes in the development of children exposed to the activities of the Play Lab
- To document the driving force for and the challenges to initiating and implementing the Play Labs in the government primary spaces

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

#### 7. BRAC – Disrupting Cross Border Trafficking Networks in Jashore, Bangladesh

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

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

Coordinator: Sophia Kaufman, Project Coordinator

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR

Focal: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

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

Timeline: November 2019-April 2021

Objectives:

- To conduct formative research during inception to understand the gaps and barriers that might inhibit effective CBT programming in Jashore
- To conduct operational research (in close coordination with monitoring teams and the digital monitoring system) to understand how and why the project is able to achieve objectives or not, and inform fast adaptations and improvements on how to move to scale effectively
- To conduct baseline and end line surveys and evaluation reports to understand project performance against the project results framework

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) - UK

Partners: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

## 8. Strengthening Voices and Capacities for Addressing Gender Based Violence with BLAST

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

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR; Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator

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

Timeline: January 2019 – September 2020

Objective:

- To address the overarching goal of reducing gender-based violence (GBV) prevalent in Bangladesh's society.
- To address the erosion of gender objectives within development, and in the current context of shrinking civic space

Methodology:

Donor: Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (CREA)

Partners: BRAC

#### 9. Strengthening Voices and Capacities for Addressing Gender Based Violence

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

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR; Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator

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

Timeline: January 2019 – September 2020

Objective: N/A

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (CREA)

#### 10. Promoting Rights Through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTIE)

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

Coordinator: Ashfique Rizwan, Deputy Project Coordinator (May 2018-November 2019); Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator (December 2019 – March 2020); Tasfiah Jalil, Sr. Coordinator (March 2020-Present)

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

Timeline: January 2019 – September 2020

Objective:

- To address discriminatory laws, policies and practices related to marriage and sexual violence in the context of Bangladesh and international human rights standards
- To create platforms for university students and young professionals in the project area to express their views and experiences on their freedom to express, choose, and consent to matters related to their own lives, and strengthen their knowledge and understanding and increase their participation in ensuring their rights
- To enhance the capacity of service providers on SRHR

Methodology: Capacity Strengthening and Advocacy

Donor: Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

11. Where Do They Go? Documentary on Accessibility of SRHR Services for Single Working Women in Urban Bangladesh

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

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

Timeline: July 2018-February 2019

Objective: This documentary aims at breaking the silence and knowledge gap around the SRHR needs of single/unmarried young women in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Sharnet International

Partner: Bohnishikha-Unlearn Gender

12. Social inclusion through Skill Development: Exploring the lived realities of BRAC SDP Graduates through photo narrative

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

Co-PI: Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR; Wafa Alam, Research Associate

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

Timeline: September 2019 - August 2020

Objective:

- To explore the experiences of women in non-conventional trade, transgender individuals and persons with disabilities after graduation from SDP training programs
- To understand their need for support after graduation in order to ensure a sustainable social inclusion
- To understand experiences of SDP graduates during COVID-19 pandemic through follow up phone interviews in July

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Skill Development Program

Partner: BRAC Skill Development Program

### 13. Right Here Right Now (RHRN)

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR

Coordinator: Kuhel Islam, Senior Coordinator (2019-June 2020); Tasfiyah Jalil, Sr. Coordinator (March 2020-Present), Rituja Shome, Research Assistant (2019-Present)

Implemented by: The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Timeline: July 2017-October 2020

Objective:

- To create a world where everyone is able to access quality and youth-friendly health services.
- To ensure that no one is afraid to openly express who they are and who they love.

Methodology: Evidence-based Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

Donor: Rutgers

Partners:

- BRAC Education Programme, BRAC
- RHSTEP
- Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)
- Naripokkho
- SERAC-Bangladesh
- Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB)
- Oboyob, BLAST
- United for Body Rights (UBR) Alliance
- Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
- Dance4Life
- Arrow / HiVOS

### 14. Male Youth and their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh: A Mixed-methods Nationwide study



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

Coordinated by: Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator

Qualitative Lead: Subas Chandra Biswas, Senior Research Fellow

Implemented by: The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Timeline: December 2018-December 2020

Objective:

- To explore the SRH needs of male youth (aged 15-24) in Bangladesh by exploring existing SRH interventions;
- Identify the gaps and challenges to improve SRH interventions and/or services
- Identify the barriers of implementation and recommendations for policy advocacy.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

15. HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: A Story of the Evolution of BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) in Rohingya Camps of Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate

Implemented by: The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Timeline: Feb 2019 - December 2023.

Objective: To undertake a process documentation study outlining the story of BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED) and BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) run Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) for children aged 0-6 years in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)

Partner: N/A

16. HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: Feasibility Assessment and Implementation Research for Delivering Integrated Comprehensive SRHR Services for Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR

Co-PI: Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director CUEH

Co-Investigators: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director, Research and Co-Director, CUEH; and Bachera Akter, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

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

Timeline: May 2018-December 2019

Objective:

- To conduct situation analysis for assessing demand and supply side barriers in accessing SRH services by adolescent girls and women aged 12-59 years
- To assess the implementation of operational models for delivering integrated comprehensive SRHR services for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: World Health Organization (WHO)

Partner: World Health Organization (WHO)

17. Maternal mortality and emergency obstetric care (EmOC) facilities in BRAC health nutrition population programme (HNPP) areas in rural Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Saira Parveen Jolly, Sr. Research Fellow

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

Timeline: 1 March 2019 - Ongoing

Objectives:

- To identify the areas with high maternal deaths in BRAC health, nutrition and population programme (HNPP) areas in Bangladesh
- To examine the density of Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) facilities in BRAC HNPP areas across Bangladesh
- To explore knowledge, perception, practice, barrier and challenges in the communities with high MMR in Bangladesh, in access to formal healthcare facilities for utilization of antenatal, delivery and postnatal care

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Partner: BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

#### 18. Migration Passages and SRH Needs of Rural to Urban Migrant Women in Bangladesh

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

Coordinator: Syeda Seama Mowri, Senior Project Coordinator(former)

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

Timeline: March 2019 - February 2020

Objective:

- To understand access to information and services that meet the sexual and reproductive healthcare needs of rural-urban migrant women in Dhaka.
- To understand the push-pull factors that contributed to the decision to migrate.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Georgetown University

Partner: Georgetown University

#### 19. Socio-Cultural Understanding of ECD: Perspectives of the Rohingya Community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Coordinator

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

Timeline: August 2019 - February 2020

Objective:

- To understand perspectives of childhood and childhood development among Rohingya mothers and fathers
- To know their practices and beliefs related to childhood and childhood development

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)

## 20. Perceptions of Rohingya Community about BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab and Changes Occurred to Exposed Children

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Fouzia Khanam

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Coordinator

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

Timeline: August 2019 – February 2020

Objectives:

- To explore the perception of parents and community about HPL interventions
- To understand and explain how play based ECD interventions bring developmental changes among Rohingya children and support their mothers

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)

## 21. A Mixed-Methods Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial of Biometrically Enabled mHealth System of BRAC Community Health Programme

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

Co- PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Professor and Co-Director CUEH

Focal person: Adrita Kaiser, Research Associate

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Timeline: October 2019- December 2020

Objectives:

- To evaluate the impact of a biometrically enabled mHealth (Simprints) system on selected maternal and child health outcomes in 36 districts of Bangladesh
- To examine the cost-effectiveness of the biometrically enabled mHealth system in improving maternal and child health outcomes in the 36 selected districts. In addition, to determine whether benefits exceed costs (cost-benefit analysis)

- To explore, if the “Simprints” system contributes to an efficiency gain in overall management of health care and Management Information System (MIS) in providing maternal and child health services in 36 districts of Bangladesh
- To explore perceptions and understandings of the beneficiaries about potential benefits (if there is any) of the biometrically enabled mHealth system

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Simprint/ BRAC HNPP

Partner: BRAC HNPP

## 22. Exploring Older Adolescents' (Age 15-19) Reasons for Substance Abuse to Inform Youth Intervention Policies and Programs

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

Co-PI: Anushka Zafar, Research Fellow

Timeline: September 2019 – December 2019

Objective: To explore perceptions around the reasons behind substance abuse (ie, alcohol, tobacco and drugs) among older adolescents living in urban slums in Dhaka.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: GAGE ODI

Partner: BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University

## 23. Transformative Competency-Based Public Health Education for Professional Employability in Bangladesh's Health Sector/TRANS4M-PH

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

Coordinator: Md. Koushik Ahmed, Deputy Director, MPH Programme

Timeline: January 2019 - January 2022

Objective: The project aims to introduce competency based curricula in Bangladesh to improve professional employability among students and create a core group of indigenous faculty trained in best-practice facilitation while creatively using appropriate contextualized pedagogy.

Methodology:

Donor: ERASMUS+

Partners:

- Asian University for Women (AUW)
- International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
- Maastricht Universit