

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

Established in 2008, The Centre aims to promote a broader understanding of gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh and in the region through research, policy, advocacy and training activities. Using both academic and action-based research, the Centre generates knowledge and translates it into advocacy-based action for social change. Research topics under the Centre include HIV/AIDS, reproductive health service, gender-based violence, child marriage, digital tools for SRHR, bodily rights and behaviour change communication.

To promote SRHR, the Centre organises and conducts short trainings and courses that aim to stimulate critical thinking and reflections among practitioners. The Centre also facilitates advocacy efforts with various partners and networks to bring about greater awareness on relevant areas of SRHR work. Recent advocacy efforts have addressed SRHR and law, masculinity and men's sexual health, and rights-based issues of minorities and disadvantaged communities.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till May, 2021)*

- COUNTERING BACKLASH AND RECLAIMING GENDER JUSTICE

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

Coordinator:

- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; BRAC JPGSPH.
- Aisha Siddika, Senior Researcher, BRAC JPGSPH.

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.

- **MOBILISING 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, BRAC JPGSPH.
- Peter Newman (University of Toronto)

Co-PI:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

- **BRAC – DISRUPTING CROSS BORDER TRAFFICKING NETWORKS IN JASHORE, BANGLADESH**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Coordinator: Sophia Kaufman, Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Focal: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

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)

- **STRENGTHENING VOICES AND CAPACITIES FOR ADDRESSING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE WITH BLAST**

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

Coordinator:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: November 2018 - December 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: Qualitative

Donor: Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (CREA)

Partners: BRAC

- **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, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Focal person: Adrita Kaiser, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: March 2021-June 2021

Objectives:

- To evaluate the impact of a biometrically enabled mHealth (Simprints) system on selected maternal and child health outcomes in 36 districts of Bangladesh where BRAC HNPP provides services to the beneficiaries.
- To conduct a cost analysis of the biometrically enabled mHealth system in improving maternal and child health outcomes in the 36 selected districts, and assess the cost and consequence of the intervention.
- To explore, if the “Simprints” system contributes to an efficiency gain in the overall management and monitoring of health care of BRAC HNPP programme in providing maternal and child health services in 36 districts of Bangladesh.
- To explore perceptions and understandings of the SKs about potential benefits (if there is any) of the biometrically enabled mHealth system in delivering services.
- To assess service satisfaction, perceived usefulness and other non-health effects of biometric programme and biometric technology acceptance among the beneficiaries in the intervention and control areas.

Methodology: Mixed method research

Donor: Simprint/ BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Partner: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

- **IMPACT EVALUATION DESIGN FOR EVALUATION OF ADOLESCENT STUDENT PROGRAMME (BANGLADESH)**

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

Co-PI: Maheen Sultan, Acting Head and Senior Fellow of Practice, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD).

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: 22 March 2020 – 30 December 2020

Objective:

- Evaluate the impact of various components of the Adolescent Student Programme (ASP) intervention at the school level, with the overall aim to improve adolescent well-being;
- To equip the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) with an evidence-based and cost-effective model before scaling-up the ASP intervention;
- To understand the knowledge, perceptions, practices, challenges and coping mechanisms of adolescent boys and girls living in low income settlements during the pandemic.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

Partners:

- BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University.
- Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute

- **A BASELINE STUDY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES (WGWDs) FACING VIOLENCE IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH**

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

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

Co-I and Focal:

- Md. Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Statistician, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Fatema Akter Bonny, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2020 - May 2021

Objectives:

- To explore the knowledge & awareness about SRHR issues, level of violence experienced by the women & girls with disabilities (WGWDs);
- To explore the coping strategies adopted by women & girls with disabilities;
- Identify the gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services, and to recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UN Women funded through Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Partners:

- The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

- **GENDER AND ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE (GAGE)**

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

Co-PI: Maheen Sultan, Head (a.i.) Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BIGD.

Coordinated by:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md. Sajib Rana, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: March 2020 - November 2020

Objective:

To address the transformative processes of adolescents in the face of discriminatory social norms and institutional barriers by generating data of their capabilities, changing the context of early adolescence through to adulthood and focusing on the dynamic interactions that shape adolescents' outcomes and life experiences in their world.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

Partner: Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

- **DESIGNING A STUDY ON MENSTRUAL REGULATION AND POST-ABORTION CARE AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other researchers:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tahmid Hasan, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ayanti Barua, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: April 2021 to March 2023

Objectives: The objectives of the study are

- To understand the provision of MR and PAC services available in refugee camps
- To explore community members' knowledge and use of MR and PAC services through both formal and informal sources, and to interrogate the role of preferences, stigma and health literacy influences on women's abortion-related care-seeking behavior, and
- To contextualize these experiences within the community through understanding the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of community leaders and men related to the management of unintended pregnancies.

Methodology: Mixed Method

Donor: Guttmacher Institute (USA)

Partners:

- Guttmacher Institute (USA)
- Association for the Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA)

- DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED NUTRITION MESSAGES FOR SCHOOLS

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Dr Malay Mridha, Professor and Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Abu Mohammad Shamim, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Fahmida Akhter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Barnali Chakraborty, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: August 2020 – March 2021

Objective: The study aims to develop integrated nutrition messages for the school-going children (pre-primary to grade 10) using the cover pages of the school textbooks.

Methodology: Mixed methods

Donor: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- DOCUMENTARIES ON CONSENT AND SKIN COLOUR

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2020 - December 2020

Objective:

- To increase knowledge and conceptual clarity among young people on issues of consent and choice in the context of SRHR;
- To sensitized university students and young people on issues of choice in the context of early marriage, relationships, marital rape and cybercrimes;
- To explore the common perception of colorism in Bangladesh and collect narratives of those who have been discriminated against for darker skin tone;
- To examine the realities of how colorism can deeply affect all aspects of peoples' lives and the decision they make or opportunities they are given;

- To raise awareness regarding this social injustice which is otherwise 'normalised' in the society.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: International Republican Institute (IRI)

- **URBAN HEALTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2021: HEALTHY, SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES**

Project Lead: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Afsana Yeamin, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January - May 2021

Objective: Urban Health Innovation Challenge 2021 aims to look for low-cost youth-led, local-level solutions for addressing limited access to SRH services and increasing sexual harassment among adolescents and youths living in slums

Objective:

The Urban Health Innovation Challenge 2021 aimed at discovering new methods, approaches, and solutions for addressing two significant hazards in urban slums: 1. Limited access to sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youths in slum areas and 2. Increasing sexual harassment/sexual abuse to adolescents and youths in the slums. The contest was looking for solutions relevant to the given context, cost-effective, easy to implement, and effective to support the adolescents and youths living in urban slums.

This contest has created a platform for university students and youths from marginalized populations to transform their ideas into reality and solve social problems. In total 42 teams submitted their ideas whereas 6 teams were from different urban slums of Dhaka city and 1 team was from diverse population consisting of transgender and intersex youths. Through the final round of the contest; champion, first runner up and second runner up teams have been identified. All top 3 teams' ideas are currently in the primary phase and need field testing before scaling up implementation into the urban slum communities.

Donor: World Vision Bangladesh

Partner: Urban Programmes of World Vision Bangladesh

- **PROCESS DOCUMENTATION OF NEW HPL COMPONENT: 2-4 HOME-BASED MODEL**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other researchers:

- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.
- Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.
- Mahmuda Aktar Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager, BRAC JPGSPH.
- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February – November 2021

Objective:

- To document the development and implementation of the HPL 2-4 Home-Based Centre over time by exploring the rationale, overall process and operational activities
- To document the co-creation of content for the HPL 2-4 Home-Based Centre over time and its outputs
- To identify the overall challenges and lessons learnt throughout the process

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **PROCESS DOCUMENTATION OF NEW HPL COMPONENT: FATHERS' ENGAGEMENT**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Other researchers:

- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Mahmuda Aktar Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February – November 2021

Objective:

- To document the development and implementation of the Fathers' Engagement model over time by exploring the rationale, overall process and operational activities
- To document the co-creation of content for the Fathers' Engagement model over time and its outputs
- To identify the overall challenges and lessons learnt throughout the process

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **PROCESS DOCUMENTATION OF NEW HPL COMPONENT: PARENT-CHILD DYAD MODEL**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Other researchers:

- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Nazrana Khaled, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Mahmuda Aktar Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February – November 2021

Objectives:

- To document the development and implementation of the Parent-Child Dyad model over time by exploring the rationale, overall process and operational activities
- To document the co-creation of content for the Parent-Child Dyad model over time and its outputs
- To identify the overall challenges and lessons learnt throughout the process

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **DISABILITY INCLUSION IN PANDEMIC RESPONSES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: CAPTURING NARRATIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN BANGLADESH**

PI:

- Shahreen Chowdhury, Research Assistant, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)
- Fatema Akter Bonny, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-I/Focal:

- Salma Akter Urme, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: March 2021 – Ongoing

Objective:

- To capture and understand the individual experiences of people with disabilities and caregivers during COVID-19 in real time across two different LMIC settings.
- To explore perceptions, needs and the psychosocial impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities and how this varies based on intersecting axes of inequity e.g. gender, poverty and socioeconomic status.
- To highlight areas that need to be prioritised and considered from the perspectives of people with disabilities to ensure more equitable responses to health systems shocks as a result of emerging infectious disease

Methodology: Qualitative (Photovoice and key informant interviews)

Donor: The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH)

Partners:

- London School of Tropical Medicine
- NUOD (National Union of disabled)
- BRAC JPGSPH

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (CoE-HS&UHC)

Established in 2012, the Centre works with key partners and stakeholders in the government, private and NGO sectors to facilitate the efforts to accelerate evidence-informed, equitable and sustainable action towards Urban Health Coverage (UHC). As part of its core activities, the Centre works to generate essential evidence to further the establishment of UHC in Bangladesh; these include policy briefs and systematic reviews of key determinants of UHC including workforce, management, and information systems. Frameworks are produced on key functions of insurance systems related to provider networks, service packages, premiums, benefits and claims. Implementing research on UHC initiatives is also conducted with real-time monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Centre also develops core competencies around UHC through various accredited training programmes and short courses. These programmes are held with key implementing institutions of UHC in Bangladesh. Advocacy is another major core activity of the Centre, and is facilitated through forums, learning and research dissemination with local and global partners. National and international workshops, seminars and dialogues are also held focusing on key UHC issues.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till May, 2021)*

- **TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND ADVANCING UHC AGENDA IN BANGLADESH: THE ROLE OF FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS IN IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: August 2017 - August 2021

Objective: To explore practices that are related to the delivery of responsive, equitable and quality services by the health care providers and managers at the PHC levels.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Partners:

- School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS);
- University of London;
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom

- **A GLOBAL SOCIAL SCIENCES NETWORK FOR INFECTIOUS THREATS AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (SONAR GLOBAL)**

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 - December 2021

Objectives:

- Develop an open-access platform to support the SoNAR-Global activities and to share them broadly;
- Adapt, test, and evaluate vulnerability assessment tools on the ground and engagement models to facilitate collaboration across multiple stakeholders;
- Create, pilot and evaluate curricula for training social scientists in preparedness and response to infectious threats and through curricular development and piloting social science knowledge of infectious threats among non-social sciences actors.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: European Commission

Partners:

- Institut Pasteur (IP);
- Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD);
- Stichting Nederlands Instituut Voor Onderzoek Van De Gezondheidszorg (NIVEL);
- Medizinische Universitaet Wien (MUW);
- Mahidol University;
- State Institution Center Public Health Ministry of Health of Ukraine (PHC);
- University College London (UCL);
- Makerere University (MU);
- Centre Regional De Recherche Et De Formation A La Prise En Charge Clinique Du Vih Sida et Maladies Associees de Dakar (CRCF);
- Institute of Development Studies (IDF)

- **SKILLS DEMAND ANALYSIS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: 12 July 2020 - Ongoing

Objective:

- To explore the emerging employment opportunities in the health care sector given the current shortage of allied health care workers (beside doctors and nurses) in the formal system following COVID-19 pandemic and a major paradigm shift towards demand for home-based palliative/ /rehabilitative/disability/elderly care services.

Methodology: Mixed Method

Donor: Skills Development Programme, BRAC

Partner: Skills Development Programme, BRAC

- **ASSESSMENT OF POST-CRASH CARE SYSTEM FOLLOWING ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Assistant Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2020- June 2021

Objective:

- To assess the current pre-hospital (by-stander and ambulance) and hospital- based post-crash care services in order to get a holistic picture of the post-crash system existing in Bangladesh;
- To improve the post-crash system in the country so that RTC mortality and morbidity are reduced.

Methodology: Cross-sectional study and Qualitative method

Donor: The World Bank

Partner: The World Bank

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH (CUEH)

Established in 2013, with the focus on health equity challenges of the urban poor, particularly on urban health governance; the Centre works in inter-sectoral research, training, policy and results-based action. The Centre motivates evidence-based dialogue and decision-making, and supports partnerships and networking among government policymakers, private and public service providers, researchers and development partners.

The key areas of the Centre's work include training and capacity development to enhance skills and competencies for better urban health governance, inter-sectoral action, needs and impact assessments as well as programme design, implementation and evaluation. Research at the Centre focuses on urban health governance, community engagement and accountability, and facility mapping and innovations in service delivery models for the urban poor. With broad participation of relevant sectors (health, housing, transport, etc.) and stakeholders (development partners, local government, NGOs, etc.), the Centre applies an evidence-based approach to building consensus, aligning resources and coordinating action towards better governance practices.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till May, 2021)*

- PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE HEALTHY CITIES

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

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

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

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

Timeline: September 2018 - April 2023

Objective:

- To develop actionable policy scenarios bearing in mind the health impact of different sectors on health outcomes and validate them with stakeholders;
- To engage and build the capacity of these stakeholders to facilitate policy implementation;
- To develop an integrated analytical framework and develop locally-parameterized models for Dhaka city that will guide forming and integrating policy scenarios across sectors and quantify their impacts on health outcomes.

Methodology: Quantitative and Qualitative methods, spatial analysis and modelling with simulation.

Donor: Wellcome Trust, UK

Partner:

- Ames Research Center;
- Anzhen Hospital China;
- Arizona State University;
- Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE);
- McGill University, Canada;
- Imperial College London, UK;
- Public Health England;
- Simon Fraser University Canada;
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health;
- The University of Chicago;

- Tsinghua University, China;
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst;
- University of British Columbia;
- University of Ghana.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR EQUITY (ARISE)**

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

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

Coordinator: Nadia Farnaz, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Assistant Coordinator: Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2018 - February 2024

Objective: To catalyze change in approaches to enhancing accountability and improving the health and wellbeing of poor, marginalized people living in informal urban settlements.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: UK Research and Innovation's Global Challenges Research Fund.

Partners:

- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK;
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS);
- Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK;
- The University of York, UK;
- George Institute for Global Health, India;
- Slum/Shack Dwellers' International (SDI), India;
- African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya;
- Liverpool VCT Health (LVCT), Kenya;
- Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone;
- Sierra Leone: College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), Sierra Leone.

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

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

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

Timeline: May 2020 - April 2026

Objective: To build a resilient and responsive urban health system to the existing challenges e.g. double burden of Communicable & Non-communicable Diseases, dominance of NGO sector, low health service

coverage for marginalized urban people, through capacity building and research uptakes including sectors beyond health and enabling linkages between multiple government, NGO and private providers whilst ensuring accountability to urban residents, particularly the poor.

Methodology: Desk Review, Quantitative and Qualitative methods, participatory research, RCT and Retrospective Study.

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

Partners:

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

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

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

Co-Lead: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH.

Technical Advisor:

- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Saira Parvin Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Implemented Under:

- Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)
- Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)
- Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: December 2019 - December 2020

Objective:

The main objective of this study is to identify and evaluate the contributions of BRAC HNPP programmes as a set of changes in the lives of the disadvantaged population not limited to health only but spanning beyond to other sectors of development. A 'contribution analysis' approach is adopted by comparing between what happened and what would have happened in the absence of the programme. Thus, along with a credible and evidence-based narrative, the study aims at reviewing the 'value for money' propositions of the investments made based on the 'social return of investment' concept and DALYs averted to evaluate the overall impact of BRAC HNPP.

Methodology: Cross-sectional study (both qualitative and quantitative approach)

Donor: BRAC, HNPP

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

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

Other Researchers:

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

Timeline: March 2021 - June 2021

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

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

Donor: BRAC

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

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

Other Researchers:

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

Timeline: May 2021 - December 2021

Objective:

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

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

Donor: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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

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

Other Researchers:

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

Timeline: March 2021 - June 2021

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

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

Donor: BRAC

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

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

Researchers:

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

Timeline: May 2021 - December 2021

Objective:

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

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

Donor: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP (CoE-SISU)

Established in 2016, the main objective of the CoE-SISU is to timely generate and embed knowledge related to healthcare practice. The Centre aims to bridge gaps to allow successful scaling up and implementation of interventions by focusing on testing different methodologies, generating evidence-based interventions and innovations, and translating them into standard protocols for policy-makers in Bangladesh.

Research conducted at the Centre reviews potential evidence of successful interventions that can showcase the application of science of implementation for scaling-up. Guidelines and policy briefs are produced for policymakers on implementation of various health programmes and scale-up in Bangladesh. Advocacy efforts include the development of communication materials to showcase successfully implemented or scaled up programmes. Training and short courses are offered under the Centre on implementation research and, monitoring and evaluation to build capacity of development professionals, implementers, researchers and government officials.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till May, 2021)*

- **THE ETHICS OF HEALTH POLICY EXPERIMENTS: A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN AND OVERSIGHT**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2017 - December 2020

Objective:

- To test and refine 'deliberative interviews,' a cognitive qualitative interview technique based on deliberation to determine its applicability in designing a framework that examines ethical aspects of health policy experiments;
- To assess if deliberative interviews are socially and culturally acceptable in the four study countries;
- To identify if a higher knowledge level on health issues can be reached by using the deliberative interview style, which takes into account major, widely-known aspects of a particular health theme and has both interviewer and interviewee engage actively in the interview.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor:

- Wellcome Trust, UK;

- University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Partners:

- University of Heidelberg, Germany;
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health;
- School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Tanzania

- **SYNTHESIS AND TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS FROM POLIO ERADICATION (STRIPE)**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Yameen Mazumder, Project Implementation Specialist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Dr Humayra Binte Anwar, Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: April 2018 - December 2022

Objectives:

- Map knowledge content from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI);
- Package GPEI knowledge assets for a global health course and training materials on implementation science;
- Validate GPEI-IS course, MOOC and training materials for the clinic;
- Disseminate GPEI-IS knowledge products, courses, IS clinics to different targeted audiences.
- Track impact of GPEI-IS knowledge product over time.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

- **A MEDIA EXPERIMENT TO REDUCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Mushfiqur Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: June 2019 - May 2021

Objective:

To reduce the risk of bacterial and parasitic infection through flooring reconstruction in homes that currently have dirt/mud floors.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor:

- South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC);
- The World Bank;
- Grand Challenges Canada.

Partner: Association of Development for Economic and Social Help (ADESH)

- OLD AGE ALLOWANCE

PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI:

- Viola Asri, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Konstanz;
- Kumar Biswas, Research Coordinator, The World Bank;
- Sebastian Fehrl, Professor, Economics of Social Policy, University of Bremen;
- Urs Fischbacher, Professor, Applied Research in Economics, University of Konstanz;
- Katharina Michaelowa, Professor, Political Economy and Development, University of Zurich.

Focal:

- Viola Asri, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Konstanz;
- Kumar Biswas, Research Coordinator, The World Bank.

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2020

Objective:

To make the selection of beneficiaries more pro-poor by enabling the local government representatives to apply the eligibility criteria prescribed by the national government and make the selection based on the provided data on the target group.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor:

- University of Zurich, Switzerland;
- Thurgau Economic Research Institute;
- University of Konstanz, Germany.

Partners:

- Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh;
- ARCED Foundation.

- CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND HEALTH SYSTEMS RESILIENCE IN HAITI AND BANGLADESH (CLIMHB)

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal:

- Dr Mowtushi Matin, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Rafee Muhammad Tamjid, Assistant Manager, Communications, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: June 2019 - December 2022

Objective:

To analyse the capacities and vulnerabilities of health systems in Haiti and Bangladesh, through the lens of climate change-induced migration flows.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor:

- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Institut De Recherche Pour LE Développement (IRD)

Partner: CEPED – IRD

- **MILLION COOL ROOFS CHALLENGE**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Md. Shihab Ad Din, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2019 - December 2020.

Objective:

To improve access to sustainable cooling through the rapid scaling of cool roofs in countries with large numbers of people facing heat stress risks.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donors:

- The Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD);
- France Nesta Enterprise Ltd.

Partner: Department of Architecture, BRAC University

- **IMPLEMENTATION FIDELITY OF TB PROGRAMME IN DETECTING CHILDREN WITH TUBERCULOSIS**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-I:

- Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Fouzia Khanam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Bushra Zarin Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator:

- Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Dr Mrityika Barua, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: May 2020 - December 2020

Objective:

To investigate the implementation fidelity and the bottlenecks to identify Child-TB in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Global Fund

Partner: BRAC

- **DEVELOPING AND TESTING A RISK STRATIFICATION APPROACH SCREENING USING GUIDELINES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES IN BANGLADESH.**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-I:

- Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Dr Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ipsita Sutradhar, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal: Ipsita Sutradhar, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2020 - June 2021

Objective:

- Develop and validate a simple DR risk stratification score and tool in the Bangladeshi population with diabetes;
- Pilot the use of the DR risk stratification approach for targeted screening in a real-world clinical setting in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Mixed-method

Donor: Fred Hollow Foundation Australia

- **EFFECTS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE AND EDUCATION ON HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**

PI:

- Erica Field, Professor, Economics and Global Health, Duke University;
- Kate Vyborny, Associate Director, DevLab, Duke University;
- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Nina Buchmann, PhD Candidate, Economics, Stanford University;
- Rachel Glennerster, Chief Economist, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office, UK;
- Shahana Nazneen, Consultant, Innovations for Poverty Action;
- Xiao Yu Wang, Assistant Professor, Economics, Duke University and Chief Economist, CRI.

Coordinator: Fatema Mohammad, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2020 - August 2022

Objective:

- Assess the impact of increased marriage age and/or human capital on reproductive health;
- Assess the impact of increased marriage age and/or human capital on women's long-term physical and psychological well-being;
- Assess the impact of increased marriage age and/or human capital on child health;
- Assess potential channels through which marriage age and/or human capital influence maternal and child health

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: National institutes of health, USA

Partner: Duke University

- **VALIDATION OF FINGER IMAGE: A MIXED-METHOD STUDY**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Focal:

- Mushfiqur Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.
- Saima Mehjabeen, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2020 - August 2021

Objective: To measure the accuracy of finger image testing among children under 5 and to explore the feasibility of the implementation in specific urban slums.

Methodology: Embedded mixed-method approach.

Donor: Simprints Technology Limited.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND NUTRITION (CNCDN)

Established in 2017, the Centre aims to reduce mortality and complications related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition in Bangladesh through prevention, treatment and control. The Centre conducts research and works with the government of Bangladesh to develop guidelines for prevention, treatment and control, and perform evidence-based advocacy around NCDs and malnutrition.

Research at the Centre includes identifying evidence-based practices in clinical and population settings, implementing health system research to optimise delivery of interventions, and conducting economic evaluation of novel and evidence-based interventions. Health care providers are trained on risk stratification for NCDs through prevention and management. The Centre also strengthens capacity of programme managers and policy makers on evidence-based policy and interventions for prevention and control. To further promote and advocate for the prevention, treatment and control of NCDs and malnutrition, and encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles, the Centre also develops communication materials based on their research.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till May, 2021)*

- **UNDERSTANDING THE PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN SOUTH ASIANS PEOPLE-SOUTH ASIA BIOBANK**

PI:

- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: May 2018 - September 2021

Objective:

- To strengthen NCD surveillance systems in Bangladesh by establishing 30 surveillance sites across the country and complete structured assessments on a representative sample of up to 30,000 Bangladeshi men and women aged 18+ years, living at the 30 surveillance sites using standardized approaches
- To provide nationally representative data on the burden of T2D, CVD and their risk factors, and on the quality of care for these major NCDs to quantify needs, in Bangladeshi populations.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

Partners:

- Imperial College London, UK
- Noncommunicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD)
- Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes
- Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM)
- Bangladesh University of Health Science (BUHS)
- BRAC

- **BASELINE SURVEY OF STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH ORGANISING COMMUNITIES (SHASTO)**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Moyazzam Hossaine, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: February 2018 - June 2020

Objective:

To report the current situation of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their behavioural and clinical risk factors in selected intervention (Narsingdi district and Dhaka City North) and control sites (Gazipur district and Dhaka City South) of SHASTO project.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Partner: Noncommunicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

- **TRAINING AND DIGITAL CARE COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED PREVENTION OF TYPE 2 DIABETES AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE BY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAMS IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Abu Abdullah Mohammad Hanif, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 - September 2021

Objective:

- To develop and evaluate digital platforms for training and care-coordination by the primary health care teams in Bangladesh

- To improve prevention and control of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and Cardiovascular disease (CVD)

Methodology: Mixed method

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

Partners:

- Imperial College London, UK
- Non-Communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
- BRAC

- **ENHANCING NUTRITION SERVICES TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IN AFRICA AND ASIA (ENRICH)- MIDLINE EVALUATION, BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2016 - June 2020

Objective: To determine the effectiveness of ENRICH program's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan (MEP) that guides a coordinated approach to measuring the effectiveness and impact of ENRICH programme interventions across the whole implementation cycle- including achievements of immediate and intermediate outcomes and impact evaluation at end-line as identified within the Performance Measurement Framework (PMF).

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: World Vision

Partner: University of Toronto

- **EFFICACY OF ZINC-BIO FORTIFIED RICE IN IMPROVING ZINC STATUS IN YOUNG BANGLADESHI CHILDREN**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Coordinator: Md. Rabiul Islam, Sr. Field Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2017 – June 2021

Objective: To determine the efficacy of newly developed zinc biofortified rice on plasma zinc concentrations in children between 12-36 months of age in a rural area of Bangladesh, using a double blind randomized controlled trial, in an effort to alleviate public health problems, such as impaired child growth and diarrhoea-related morbidity, in a sustainable way.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donors: HarvestPlus

Partners:

- ETH Zurich
- Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
- icddr,b

- **SCALING UP NUTRITIONAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGH GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OR HEALTH SYSTEM (RINEW-G)**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Abu Abdullah Mohammad Hanif, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Md. Mokbul Hossain, Analyst (Statistics), BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2019 - May 2021

Objective:

- To implement an integrated package of interventions (maternal nutrition, infant and young child nutrition, early child stimulation, water, sanitation, hygiene and prevention of arsenic and lead) through the government health system in one sub-district
- Assess uptake by government personnel, impact on target mother's knowledge and practices, and barriers, prospects and pathways for broader scale-up.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partners:

- Stanford University
- Johns Hopkins University
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Berkeley
- icddr,b.

- **IMPACT EVALUATION OF THE UNICEF MULTISECTOR INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN URBAN SLUMS**

PI: Esther Heesemann

Co-PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2019 - March 2022

Objective: To provide evidence on the effectiveness of the UNICEF urban slums nutrition programme targeting children and caregiver living in Sylhet City Corporation.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donor: UNICEF, Bangladesh

Partners:

- Sylhet City Corporation
- UNDP
- Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)

- **DELIVERY OF TRAINING ON WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION BANGLADESH PACKAGE OF ESSENTIAL NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INTERVENTIONS (PEN) FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHASE II)**

PI: Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Rina Rani Paul, Consultant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Nushrat Jahan Urmy, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: June 2020 - December 2020

Objective:

- To increase the capacity and skills of health care providers (doctors/nurses/paramedics) in Cox's Bazar district on the implementation of PEN for primary health care in low resource settings, using a team-based approach
- To strengthen capacity of community health volunteer supervisors in Cox's Bazar district on healthy lifestyle promotion related to risk factors for NCDs

Methodology: Quantitative

Donors: World Health Organization (WHO), Bangladesh

Partners:

- Non-Communicable Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh;
- Community Health Working Group

- **DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED NUTRITION MESSAGES FOR SCHOOLS**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Dr. Malay Mridha, Professor and Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Abu Mohammad Shamim, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Fahmida Akhter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Barnali Chakraborty, Assistant Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: August 2020 - December 2020

Objective: The study aims to develop integrated nutrition messages for the school children (pre-primary to grade 10) using the cover pages of the school textbooks.

Methodology: Mixed methods

Donor: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- **ASSESSMENT OF THE FOOD SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EDIBLE OIL TRANSPORTED AND SOLD IN DRUMS**

PI: Abu Ahmed Shamim, Associate Scientist, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Prof. Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: October 2020 - May 2021

Objective:

To quantitatively assess the food safety of different edible oil brands sold in drums and bottles and ascertain value/supply chain factors (handling, storage, environmental) associated with food safety risk.

Methodology: Quantitative

Donors: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Partners: Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Dhaka University.

HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH HUB

The rise of armed conflict, forced displacement, environmental disasters and other humanitarian crises is a direct result of natural hazards and major disease outbreaks. This has not only led to the increase of sufferings of hundreds of millions of lives but now more so than ever in history, more people are facing public health issues.

As of August 2017, more than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in need of humanitarian assistance have migrated to Bangladesh. In order to improve their access to public health aid, multiple national and international organisations are tirelessly working across all camps in Cox's Bazar.

Sharing the same vision since 2018, BRAC JPGSPH continues to conduct research studies on Rohingya refugees across 3 of its Centres of Excellence in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; in efforts to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve well-being of the Rohingya community.

RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2021 *(updated till May, 2021)*

- **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, BRAC JPGSPH.

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)

- **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, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2023.

Objective: To undertake a process documentation study outlining the story of BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED) 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 (BRAC IED)

- **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, BRAC JPGSPH.

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

Co-Investigators: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH.

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)

- **DESIGNING A STUDY ON MENSTRUAL REGULATION AND POST-ABORTION CARE AMONG ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Other researchers:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Saira Parveen Jolly, Sr. Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tahmid Hasan, Sr. Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ayanti Barua, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: April 2021 - March 2023

Objective: The objectives of the study are

- To understand the provision of MR and PAC services available in refugee camps
- To explore community members' knowledge and use of MR and PAC services through both formal and informal sources, and to interrogate the role of preferences, stigma and health literacy influences on women's abortion-related care-seeking behavior, and
- To contextualize these experiences within the community through understanding the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of community leaders and men related to the management of unintended pregnancies.

Methodology: Mixed Method

Donor: Guttmacher Institute (USA)

Partners:

- Guttmacher Institute (USA)
- Association for the Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA)