

Research Projects (2020-2021)

1. 4th Health Population and Nutrition Sector Programme – Mid-Term Review (MTR) 2020

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

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

Coordinator: Mrityika Barua, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: February 2020-April 2020

Objectives:

- To understand the perception of the users on health service utilization from different tiers of the health system and constraints faced in accessing services, especially the rural and urban poor families, including hard to reach areas;
- To elicit views of the providers at different levels, including the frontline workers on availability and coverage of services, facility readiness including required HR and supplies, challenges faced on the ground and recommendations for improvement;
- To gather input from other stakeholders who are not direct users or providers but have a key role for the program implementation to understand relevant issues and opportunities for improvements.
- To have discussions with the civil society including the NGOs, private sector and HNP experts in the country including researchers, academics and relevant people from other sectors on key challenges prevailing in the health sector, and if any course correction in the 4th HPNSP will be necessary to address the prevailing issues more effectively.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: World Bank

2. Implementation fidelity of TB program in detecting children with tuberculosis

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

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

Co-I:

- Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mrityika Barua, Sr. Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Fouzia Khanam, Sr. Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Bushra Zarin Islam, Sr. Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Coordinator:

- Avijit Saha, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mrityika Barua, Sr. Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

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

3. 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, BRAC University.

Co-I:

- Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director (Centre for Non-communicable Disease), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mehedi Hasan, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Ipsita Sutradhar, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal: Ipsita Sutradhar

Timeline: October 2020- June 2021

Objectives:

- 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

4. Effects of age at marriage and education on health of mothers and children

PI:

- Erica Field;
- Kate Vyborny;
- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Nina Buchmann;
- Rachel Glennerster;
- Shahana Nazneen;
- Xiao Yu Wang.

Coordinator: Shakil Rahman Ayan, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline (estimated): 1 September 2020 to 31 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

5. Validation of Finger Image: A Mixed-Method Study

PI: Dr. Malabika Sarker

Co-PI: N/A

Focal/Coordinator:

- Mushfiqur Rahman, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Saima Mehjabeen, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up

Timeline 1st September 2020 – 31st October 2021

Methodology: Embedded mixed-method approach

Objective: To measure the accuracy of finger image testing among children under

5 and explore the feasibility of the implementation in specific urban slums.

Donor: SIMPRINT Technology Limited

Partner: N/A

6. Youth with disabilities' lived experiences, aspirations and current engagements in livelihoods in Bangladesh, and how they can share them with local decision makers.

Local PI: Dr. Malabika Sarker

Focal: Sayema Akter

Technical lead: Mrityika Barua

Timeline: June,2020- December,2021

Objectives:

The general objective of the study is to understand the experiences, aspirations and challenges of youths with disability in their livelihood in Bangladesh and, to explore the inclusion of young people with disabilities into policy dialogues around the implementation of SDG8: decent work and economic growth.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: British Academy

Partner: Sightsavers

COVID-19 Research

1. Evaluation of a Comprehensive COVID-19 Response Through Community Mobilization and Strengthening Community Clinics in Bangladesh

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

Focal/Coordinator:

- Animesh Talukder, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: December 2020 – Ongoing

Methods: Mixed-method research

Objective:

This study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a community-based comprehensive COVID-19 response project in Bangladesh by analyzing the trend of COVID-19 test positive cases, the trend of MNCH service availability and utilization, and the trend of knowledge, perception, attitude, and practice concerning COVID-19 in the study areas. Additionally, this study aims to explore the feasibility and the bottlenecks of the implementation process. The findings derived from this study are expected to help BRAC HNPP to tailor their current intervention for possible scale-up of the project in future.

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

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

2. Amplifying Resilient Communities to Facilitate a Deeper Understanding of How Vulnerable Populations Respond to and Recover from a Crisis, such as COVID-19

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

Focal/Coordinator:

- Humayra Binte Anwar, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: October 2020 – July 2021

Methodology: Mixed-method

Objective:

To provide a deeper understanding of how vulnerable populations interact with healthcare systems during and after the COVID-19 crisis in Bangladesh. These findings aim to inform the rebuilding of better health systems.

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner:

- Ipsos MORI (UK)
- Quicksand Design Studio (India)

3. Evaluation of a community-based comprehensive COVID-19 response pilot project in Kapasia, Gazipur

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

Focal/Coordinator:

- Muhammed Nazmul Islam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Animesh Talukder, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: September 2020 – Ongoing

Methods: Mixed-method research

Objective:

This study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot project by analyzing the trend of COVID-19 test positive cases and the difference in their knowledge and perception about COVID-19 in the study area. Additionally, this study aims to explore the feasibility and the bottlenecks of the implementation process. The findings derived from this study are expected to help BRAC HNPP tailor their current intervention for possible scale-up of the project in future.

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

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

4. Effect and challenges of introducing referral transportation system project on utilization of comprehensive SRHR health services during Covid-19 pandemic in Rohingya population: An implementation research on fidelity and coverage

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

Focal:

- Mritika Barua, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: July 2020- October 2020

Objective:

To assess the barriers and the facilitators of utilizing referral transportation systems on the utilization of comprehensive Maternal health related services by mothers in Rohingya camps.

Methodology: Exploratory Mixed method

Donor: UNFPA

Partner: UNFPA