

## HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH HUB

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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 increased suffering 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 5 of its Centres of Excellence in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; in an effort to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve the wellbeing of the Rohingya community.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2022

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### - **A QUALITATIVE EVALUATION OF BRAC HUMANITARIAN PLAY LAB (HPL) MODEL IN ROHINGYA CAMPS IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

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

Coordinator: Atiya Rahman, Nazrana Khaled

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)

- **MENSTRUAL REGULATION, ABORTION AND POST-ABORTION CARE AMONG THE ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Other researchers:

- Saira Parvin Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md Tahmid Hasan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Ayanti Barua, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: June 2021 – September 2023

Objective:

- To understand the provision of MR, abortion and PAC services in Cox's Bazar refugee camps
- To explore ever-married community members' knowledge and use of MR, abortion and PAC services through both formal and informal sources, and better understand the role of preferences, stigma and health literacy on women's abortion-related 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

Donor: Guttmacher Institute (GI)

Partner: Guttmacher Institute, BAPSA

- **Process documentation on accelerated model: A model of BRAC Education Programme (Design Phase)**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Co-PI: Atiya Rahman

Coordinator: Atiya Rahman

Timeline: November 2021 - February 2022

Objective: The documentation captures the implementation process from the start of the accelerated model, beginning with the design workshop. This will include documenting the rationale, overall design process, workshop learnings, curriculum, lesson plans and guidelines, teacher training modules, assessment methods, among other aspects.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Education Programme

- **Balanced Energy and Protein Implementation Research in Rural Bangladesh**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Name of Researchers: Barnali Chakraborty, Atiya Rahman, Nazrana Khaled

Timeline: August 2021 – November 2023

Donors: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and John's Hopkins Univeristy (JHU) and JiVitA

Partners: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and John's Hopkins Univeristy (JHU) and JiVitA

- **Dissemination and Uptake of Nutrition Messages**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Name of the Researchers: Barnali Chakraborty, Saira Parvin Jolly

Timeline: December 2021–January 2026

Donors: Ministry of Food, Government of Bangladesh, FAO and European Union

Partners: Ministry of Food, Government of Bangladesh, FAO and European Union

- **Improving food and nutrition security by enhancing women's empowerment**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Name of the Researchers: Saira Parvin Jolly, Malay Kumar Mridha, Barnali Chakraborty

Timeline: December 2021-December 2026

Donor: Dutch Research Council and University of Groningen

Partner: Dutch Research Council and University of Groningen

- **Process documentation of the strategies to promote play pedagogy and socio-emotional learning (SEL) of primary school under the Play Accelerator Project**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Co-PI: Atiya Rahman

Coordinator: Atiya Rahman & Nazrana Khaled

Timeline: March 2022-February 2023

Objective: 1. What initiatives have been taken in Play Accelerator project to promote Play Pedagogy and socio-emotional learning (SEL) of Teachers and Children? 2. How did these initiatives contribute in enhancing the socio-emotional learning (SEL) of Teachers and Children? 3. Implications of these interventions in the lives of teachers and children.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED), BRAC University

- **Process Documentation of Accelerated Model of BRAC Education Programme (Implementation Phase)**

PI: Kaosar Afsana  
Co-PI: Atiya Rahman  
Coordinator: Atiya Rahman  
Timeline: March 2022-February 2023

Objective: The objective of this study is to document the implementation process, interventions undertaken, effectiveness and learnings in implementing the Accelerated Learning Model. This documentation will help to understand the implementation process and underlying challenges in detail, analyze the steps taken and develop recommendations and strategies to improve process efficiency.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Education Programme

- **Rohingya community's perceptions on how HPL has brought about a mindset change in the community**

PI: Kaosar Afsana  
Co-PI: Atiya Rahman  
Coordinator: Atiya Rahman  
Timeline: January-December 2022

Objective:

- 1 : To explore the mindset change of the community (Play Leaders, Mother Volunteers, parents and caregivers, community leaders, CBCPC) toward ECD, LtP, parents engagement in children's learning, gender equity, and empowerment
- 2: To know community engagement in model development as well as project 3: To explore the perception of the community about the capacity development through the PtL projects

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED), BRAC University

- **Qualitative study on Well-being of caregivers and children**

PI: Kaosar Afsana  
Co-PI: Atiya Rahman  
Coordinator: Atiya Rahman  
Timeline: January-September 2023

Objective:

1. To explore caregivers' and children's psycho-social and mental wellbeing from provider and community perspective To know how BRAC support caregivers and children to promote their wellbeing

2. To identify the associated factors of caregivers' and children's wellbeing .
3. To explore caregivers' and children's wellbeing 3: To understand support mechanism of BRAC towards caregivers and children in order to improve both psycho-social and mental wellbeing and learning outcomes of children To identify the associated factors of caregivers' and children's wellbeing
4. To understand the coping mechanism of Rohingya caregivers and children
5. To explore practices of caregivers to build positive wellbeing of the children

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED), BRAC University

- **Co-design and develop the research protocol to assess the feasibility of implementing an integrated community based MIYCN and PHC service package in selected rural upazilas in Bangladesh**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Co-PI: Barnali Chakraborty

Timeline: February 2022-June 2022

Objective: To co-design and develop the research protocol and obtain ethical approval from a nationally accredited Institutional Review Board (IRB) to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of implementing an integrated routine PHC and MIYCN services in 4 upazilas across 2 districts in rural Bangladesh.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: FHI Solutions

Partners: Fhi Solutions and UNICEF

- **Provision of services to conduct an analysis of nutrition education and SBCC interventions, investment portfolio and document best practices in the IFAD Asia and the Pacific (APR) region**

PI: Kaosar Afsana

Co-PI: Barnali Chakraborty

Timeline: December 2021-September 2022

Objective:

1. Identify what nutrition education and SBCC approaches are successful in achieving the intended impacts, and what are the main constraints and opportunities for the scale up in IFAD projects
2. Identify how nutrition education and SBCC approaches in IFAD projects can target, prioritize, and leverage the role as needed of other value chain actors (traders, processors, extension workers, different consumer groups, media) in the continuum of nutrition sensitive projects/interventions
3. Create an inventory of nutrition education and SBCC materials, tools and actions carried out through IFAD's investments, including delivery methods, target audiences, innovations promoted.

4. Identify best practices and develop KM products to support learning and capacity building of project implementing partners and enhance the visibility of IFAD's contribution to nutrition improvement in the region

Methodology: Explorative study to be done employing a desk-based review and qualitative research design

Donor: IFAD

Partner: IFAD