



Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban Health Systems (CHORUS)



PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Director of Research and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

TIMELINE: May 2020 – April 2026

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

DONOR: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (former DFID)

The “[Community-led Responsive and Effective Urban Health Systems](#)” (CHORUS) is a 6-year (2020-2026) multi-country research programme consortium (RPC) focused on urban health systems with funding from Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (former DFID). This programme aims to undertake research that responds to the practical challenges of delivering equitable health in urban areas of 4 partner countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal and Nigeria. To build evidence in different urban settings, CHORUS aims to work in one mega and one medium-sized city in the partner countries through an “embedded” approach of research, whereby policy makers,

health professionals and communities will be engaged throughout the entire research process (i.e., problem identification, project design and implementation) to catalyse uptake of the research into policy and practice.

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University (BRAC JPGSPH), and ARK Foundation, a private sector research organisation in Bangladesh are working together in close collaboration with Dhaka North City Corporation, Khulna City Corporation, and Local Government. BRAC JPGSPH is also leading the CHORUS Capacity Strengthening activities in South Asian context (i.e., Bangladesh, Nepal). South-South exchange and learning is the central tenet of this capacity building approach. We are working to strengthen capacity of three groups of urban health system actors: (i) local communities; (ii) health policymakers, local governments, and service providers; (iii) researchers in partner organizations and their networks. Our research will help in generating evidence-based policies for improved health and reduced inequities in urban health system. The CHORUS programme protocol has been published titled “[Rethinking health systems in the context of urbanization: challenges from four rapidly urbanizing low-income and middle-income countries](#)”. A panel Session on Urban Health was held at the International Conference for Urban Health (ICUH), 2021 where the CHORUS researchers and panelists discussed the role of the private sector and city governments during the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal and Nigeria.