



**BRAC** SCHOOL OF  
JAMES P GRANT PUBLIC HEALTH



Inspiring Excellence

# E-NEWSLETTER

May - June - July 2019



GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE 2019



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PROFESSOR PROFESSOR MALABIKA SARKER ATTENDED THE SECOND LANCET COMMISSION MEETING IN HEIDELBERG

PROFESSOR SYED MASUD AHMED ATTENDED A WORKSHOP ON, ‘ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN LMICS: THE ROLE OF QUALITY OF CARE RESEARCH’

DR ZAHIDUL QUAYYUM AND DR TANVIR HASSAN ATTENDED FIRST CONSORTIUM MEETING OF THE ‘PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE HEALTHY CITIES’ PROJECT

DR ZAHIDUL QUAYYUM ATTENDED A NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

DR MALAY KANTI MRIDHA ATTENDED A RESEARCH PROPOSAL MEETING IN SINGAPORE

DR KAOSAR AFSANA ATTENDED WOMEN DELIVER 2019 CONFERENCE AND OTHER MEETINGS

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A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DAVID SANDERS

PUBLICATIONS



## BRAC JPGSPH successfully hosted the Global Conference on Implementation Science 2019 with Partners

The first ever Global Conference on Implementation Science (GCIS) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from June 29 - July 1, 2019. GCIS was co-hosted by the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH; and UNICEF Bangladesh; and co-sponsored by TDR, Geneva. The three-day conference brought together 250 participants from 30 countries that included Researchers, Implementers, and International Donor and Partner organizations.



"This is the era of implementation science and the conference here today is so very timely!! We not only want to show case the role of implementation research but also keen to enable a global knowledge sharing platform".

- Professor Malabika Sarker

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean; Director of Research and Director, CoE-SISU was the organizer of the event. The conference was Co-Chaired by **Dr Juanita Vasquez Escallon**, Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF, Bangladesh. The conference aimed to create a global platform with specialists and implementers from leading

organizations to understand and share their experiences on implementation science and research in scaling-up and sustaining social programmes in a national context.

The Conference began with a welcome address by **Professor Vincent Chang**, Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University, **Mr Tomoo Hozumi**, Country Representative UNICEF, Bangladesh; **Mr Syed Monjurul Islam**, Deputy Executive Director, icddr,b; and **Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health. In her welcome speech, Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid gave emphasis on working together across disciplines with the same goal and passion in public health to help the vulnerable community. **Dr Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Advisor to BRAC JPGSPH gave the keynote speech.

"Where decision makers and researchers are linked, overcoming gaps between the world of evidence generation and the world of policy implementation becomes easier based on an enhanced sense of mutual trust among them and ownership and buy-in of the results."

- Tomoo Hozumi





Opening speeches were given by **Dr Shamsul Alam**, Member, General Economics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh (GoB); **Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora**, the Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR); and **Dr Md Nazmul Islam**, Line Director, Medical Education and Health Manpower Development, Directorate General of Health Services.

**Dr Nhan Tran** from WHO moderated the first plenary session on 'Building Global Implementation Research Capacity: Achieving Critical Mass'. **Asif Saleh**, Executive Director, BRAC, **Dr Ayman El-Mohandes**, Dean, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, USA and **Dr John Reeder**, Director, TDR joined the plenary. **Laura Damschroder**, Research Investigator, US Department of Veteran Affairs and Professor **Donna Spiegelman**, Professor, Yale School of Public Health, USA joined the plenary via Skype.



Various plenary sessions took place on topics related to research capacity on implementation science for achieving the SDGs and UHC targets. 15 parallel sessions were organized over the course of the conference on topics ranging from strengthening IR capacity in the TDR supported postgraduate schemes, IR in response to the malnutrition challenge in Bangladesh and involving multi-sectoral collaboration.

**Dr Kaosar Afsana**, BRAC JPGSPH, **Mr Samuel Bickel**, Regional Evaluation Advisor, UNICEF ROSA; **Olakunle Alonge**, Assistant Professor, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; **Sally Theobald**, Professor, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; **Dr Till Barnighausen**, Director of the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Heidelberg, Germany; **Dr Md Rizwanul Karim**, Program Manager, Non-communicable Disease Control Program, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh participated in the closing session.



The Conference formally came to an end with the closing remarks by **Professor Sarker**, Chair, GCIS Organizing Committee; and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH.





## Partners from the Defeat-NCD Partnership visited BRAC JPGSPH

**Dr Mukesh Kapila** (Chief executive of the Defeat-NCD Partnership) and **Dr Gaurav Kumar** (Senior Program Officer, Defeat-NCD Partnership), visited BRAC JPGSPH on 28 April - 2 May, 2019. **Dr Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Professor; **Dr Kaosar Afsana**, Professor; **Dr Malay Kanti Mridha**, Associate Professor; and **Dr Rajat Das Gupta**, Sr Research Associate facilitated the visit from BRAC JPGSPH. A possible collaboration between BRAC JPSGPH and the Defeat-NCD Partnership was discussed during this meeting.

The team also met with **Dr Abul Kalam Azad**, Director General (DG) at Directorate General Health service (DGHS), **Professor A.H.M. Enayet Hussain**, Additional Director General (Planning & Development), DGHS and **Dr Bardan Jung Rana**, WHO Country Representative to Bangladesh. The team also visited the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

The team participated in a workshop on Multi-sectoral action plan for prevention and control of non-communicable disease which at BRAC JPGSPH. The workshop was attended by around 30 participants from different organizations. On 1-2 May, 2019 the team visited Cox's Bazar to have a view the emergency response activities for the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs).

The Defeat-NCD Partnership was established in January 2018 to help tackle the most significant global health challenge of the century - premature death, sickness and disability from the associated social and economic impacts of certain non-communicable diseases (NCDs).







## Dr Annie Vestjens, First Secretary, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands visited BRAC JPGSPH

**Dr Annie Vestjens**, First Secretary, SRHR and Gender and **Mushfiqua Zaman Satiar**, Senior Policy Adviser, SRHR and Gender, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands visited the School on 14 May, 2019 and attended a meeting with research team of two projects, which are implemented under Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR). The two projects are 'A study of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh' and 'Male Youth and their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights' are funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



**Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Professor and Dean, BRAC JPGSPH, and Director of the Centre for Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR); **Md Tanvir Hasan**, Assistant Professor & Co-Director of Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH); **Syeda Seama Mowri**, Senior Coordinator, along with the research team participated in the meeting.



## Professor Vincent Chang, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University visited BRAC JPGSPH

**Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, welcomed **Professor Vincent Chang**, the Vice Chancellor (VC) of BRAC University, to BRAC JPGSPH on 20 May, 2019. Professor Chang met with the faculty, staff and senior management of the School, and shared his vision for the University. He also met with 27 students from 8 countries of the current (15th cohort) in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program.

After the Vice Chancellor's speech; Professor Sabina Rashid, Dean and **Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean of BRAC JPGSPH, gave a brief presentation of the School's achievements in our four core areas of Education, Training, and Research and Advocacy over the last few years, and the future vision of the School.

**Dr Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Adviser to the Developing Midwives Project at the School shared his few thoughts on how the School was already an internationally recognized institution and was looking forward to the leadership of the Vice Chancellor to take the University forward. The session was followed by a short Q & A session.





## Dr Ayman El- Mohandes, Dean, Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, City University of New York (CUNY) visited BRAC JPGSPH

**Dr Ayman El-Mohandes**, Dean of the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy at the City University of New York (CUNY) visited the School on 30 June, 2019.

Dr El-Mohandes serves an elected member of the executive board of the American Public Health Association. Prior to his appointment to CUNY in 2013, he served as Dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska, where he was also a professor of epidemiology at the College of Public Health, and professor of pediatrics and of obstetrics/gynecology at the College of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In his presentation he gave an overview of CUNY, which is the third largest university in USA. The university has one of the most diverse student bodies in the United States, with students representing 208 countries. CUNY is the only public institution of its kind in the New York region and the only one in the nation to focus on urban public health. The School conducts research and creates new models of public health education and practice to solve urban health problems. Dr Ayman El-Mohandes emphasized on competency mapping and believes that integrated thinking is necessary for students at CUNY SPH.





## Dr Magaly Blas, Director, Mamás del Río and Nila Tanzil, Founder of Taman Bacaan Pelangi Visited BRAC JPGSPH

**Dr Magaly Blas** and **Nila Tanzil** presented at a seminar on 24 June, 2019. Dr Magaly Blas worked as a Professor and researcher at the School of Public Health and Administration, Cayetano Heredia University, Lima, Peru. She is the Director of Mamás del Río, a program to improve maternal and newborn health in rural areas in the Peruvian Amazon. Nila Tanzil is the founder of Taman Bacaan Pelangi, a non-profit organization focused on promoting literacy in remote areas of eastern Indonesia.

In her presentation, Dr Blas focused on 'Mamás del Río (Mama River)'. Her organization works in improving maternal and child health in remote rural areas in the Peruvian Amazon. The Mama River Program is a health outreach program that uses smartphone technology to deliver educational content and document and monitor vital records and health statistics of pregnant women and newborns residing in remote rural areas of the Amazon region of Peru. Taman Bacaan Pelangi (Rainbow Reading Gardens) focuses on establishing children's libraries in remote areas of eastern Indonesia. Nila Tanzil presented how they encourage and nurture children's interest in reading by providing access to good books.

On 24 June 2019, Dr Blas and Nila Tanzil visited the BRAC Maternity Centre and BRAC Education Programme. They went to Shishu Niketon School in Gazipur and Pre-primary schools with ECERS (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale) on 25 June. On 26 June, they visited BRAC Learning Centre, Mymensingh and Gonokendro (Community Library), Mymensingh.





## Dr Michelle Williams, Dean, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University Visited BRAC JPGSPH

**Dr Michelle A. Williams**, Dean of the Faculty, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health visited the School on 31 July, 2019. Dr Williams is an Angelopoulos Professor in Public Health and International Development, a joint faculty appointment at the Harvard Chan School and Harvard Kennedy School. **Richard Cash**, Senior Lecturer on Global Health in the Department of Population and International Health, Harvard University School of Public Health; and Visiting Professor at BRAC JPG School of Public Health introduced Dean Williams during her visit.

Dean Williams mentioned that this was her very first time in Bangladesh and talked about the public health situation including Rohingya crisis, the dengue fever outbreak and how health issues and explained that conquering epidemic and climate change, along with other humanitarian crisis and major challenges nowadays for Bangladesh. She hopes that the government along with other Public Health institutes like different NGOs and BRAC JPGSPH can come up with an holistic approach of confronting these challenges.

On the next day, Dr Williams visited Tuberculosis Control Programme at the TB Diagnostic Centre, Savar accompanied by **Dr Fatema Khatun**, Programme Manager, TB and **Dr Sinthia Tarin**, Senior Sector Specialist, TB. She also visited Developing Midwives Project's Dhaka Urban Centre at Mirpur with **Dr Selina Amin**, Head, Midwifery Education Programme and Project Director, BRAC JPGSPH and **Md Koushik Ahmed**, Deputy Director, BRAC JPGSPH. The School also hosted a dinner in honor of Dr Williams.







**Dr Mushtaque Chowdhury re-elected as the Dhaka University Statistics Department Alumni Association (DUSDAA) President**

Dr Mushtaque Chowdhury, Adviser and founding Dean of the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, has been re-elected as the President of the Dhaka University Statistics Department Alumni Association (DUSDAA) for the second term.

The election was held at the Annual General Meeting of the Department of Statistics, Dhaka University on August 30, 2019. In his acceptance speech he briefly presented his ideas and plans for DUSDAA for the next three years including initiating professional enhancement for students and faculty of the Department of Statistics through developing seminar series, training programmes on English language, intensifying membership drive, and creating overseas chapters of DUSDAA.



**Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid attended a Workshop at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK and ‘SRHM Meeting on UHC and SRHR: Focus on Rights, Equality and Accountability Perspectives’ in New York**

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Professor, BRAC JPGSPH and Director of Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) attended an international workshop being hosted by the Centre for Maternal and Newborn Health (CMNH) at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in Liverpool (UK) from 8 May to 10 May, 2019.

Professor Rashid also attended the ‘SRHM Meeting on UHC and SRHR: Focus on Rights, Equality and Accountability Perspectives’ on 30 -31 May, 2019 in New York. SRHM organized a one day strategy meeting in New York on 30 May, 2019 and an SRHM Journal Issue Editorial Committee meeting on the 31 of May. Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters (SRHM) is an International Journal with global relevance. The journal explores emerging, strategic, as well as neglected and marginalized issues across the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Dr Rashid is the Editorial Committee Member of the SRHM Journal Issue on UHC and SRHR.



**Dr Malabika Sarker attended the Second Lancet Commission Meeting in Heidelberg**

Dr Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Professor, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health and the Director of Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale up (CoE-SISU) attended Second Lancet Commission Meeting in Heidelberg from 3-7 June, 2019. The meeting was held at the International Study Centre of Heidelberg University.

Professor Sarker holds the position of Adjunct Faculty at the Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg University. From 7 July to 22 July, she facilitated the Mixed Method course as a co-coordinator at the Institute of Global Health, Heidelberg, Germany.



**Dr Syed Masud Ahmed attended a workshop on ‘Achieving Universal Health Coverage in LMICs: The Role of Quality of Care Research’**

Dr Syed Masud Ahmed, Professor and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC), BRAC JPGSPH joined the workshop as an ‘Expert Participant on Universal Health Coverage in LMICs’ on 29-30 May, 2019 at the Academy of Medical Sciences, London, UK. The workshop focused on Universal Health Coverage in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs).

The workshop was chaired by Professor Dame Anne Mills FMedSci, Vice Director and Professor of Health Economics and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Dr Carmencita Padilla, Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines (UP), Manila. The main objective of this workshop was to establish the progress made towards achieving quality UHC and consider the role that research can play in improving the quality of care provided in LMICs.





## Dr Zahidul Quayyum and Dr Tanvir Hassan attended First Consortium Meeting of the “Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities” Project

Dr Zahidul Quayyum, PhD, Professor, and Co-Director of Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH); and Dr Tanvir Hasan, Assistant Professor, and Co-Director of Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH) attended the first consortium meeting of the ‘Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities’ project held at the University of Ghana from May 1-3, 2019. The meeting took place at the Conference Facility of the Department of Economics, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra. Researchers involved with the PEHC project from different partner institutions attended the meeting. The main aims of the meeting were to review the work so far completed in specific areas and cities, draw out cross-sectoral linkages and links between sectors to health and draw out common policy themes in and across cities.



## Dr Zahidul Quayyum attended a National Consultation Workshop

Dr Zahidul Quayyum, PhD, Professor, and Co-Director of Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH); attended the First National Consultation Workshop on Regional Technical Assistance on Advancing Inclusive and Resilient Urban Development Targeted at the Urban Poor on 30 July, 2019 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The workshop was organized under the aegis of the Asian Development Bank's regional Technical Assistance (TA) project to raise awareness on linkages between resilience, urban poverty, and other critical issues. BRAC JPGSPH will contribute to the TA by conducting a study on ‘Social and poverty assessments/surveys of urban poor households’.



## Dr Malay Kanti Mridha attended a Research Proposal Meeting in Singapore

Dr Malay Kanti Mridha, the Director of the Center for Noncommunicable Disease and Nutrition (CNCDN), BRAC JPGSPH attended a meeting in Singapore for development of a Research Proposal on Frontline Health Workers: a non-communicable disease interventions on July 28-31, 2019. The proposed study titled “Training and digital care coordination for improved prevention of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and Cardiovascular disease (CVD) by primary health care (PHC) teams in Bangladesh” will be funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK. The study aims to develop and evaluate digital platforms for training and care-co-ordination by PHC team in Bangladesh, to improve prevention and control of T2D and CVD. CNCDN will work in close collaboration with the existing governmental and non-governmental organizations, to ensure that the approaches for the interventions are context adapted, and the prospects for scalable and sustainable health systems change is maximized.



## Dr Kaosar Afsana attended Women Deliver 2019 Conference and other Meetings

Dr Kaosar Afsana, Professor, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University delivered a Power Talk on ‘Rohingya Refugees Crisis in Bangladesh: The Role of Vaccines in Protecting and Saving Lives’ at Women Deliver 2019 Conference on Jun 3-6, 2019 at Vancouver, Canada. She also attended the Board meeting of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) as Board of Director in the Netherlands on Jun 25-28, 2019.

Professor Afsana participated as a panellist in a parallel session “Importance of Implementation Research for Health Evaluation and Applied Research Development (HEARD)’ and in closing plenary, “A Bright and Shining Future: The Role of Implementation Science,” at the Global Conference on Implementation Science & Scale up on June 29-July 1, 2019 in Dhaka. She attended the meeting of the External Advisory Committee, MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine, Oxford University on July 18-19, 2019 in Oxford, United Kingdom.



## Dr Nepal C Dey presented at the Global Conference on Implementation Science 2019 and a Seminar in Dhaka

Dr Nepal C Dey presented a paper on ‘Challenges and opportunities of implementation research’ at the Global Conference on Implementation Science (GCIS) held from 29 June - 1 July, 2019 in Dhaka. He also joined a Seminar on ‘Can deep tube wells solve arsenic crisis in rural Bangladesh?’ on 27 June, 2019 at the BRAC Centre.





## BRAC JPGSPH featured in an Article by Professor Madhukar Pai in Global Health NOW

**Professor Madhukar Pai**, MD, PhD is the Canada Research Chair in Translational Epidemiology & Global Health and the Director of McGill Global Health Programs. In his latest article '10 Fixes for Global Health Consulting Malpractice' published in Global Health NOW, he mentioned BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health as one of the top-notch schools and institutions in Low-to-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), which has developed world-class expertise in training and capacity development. 'Global Health NOW' is a news website of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, which delivers essential global public health news and views.

Read More:

<https://www.globalhealthnow.org/2019-08/10-fixes-global-health-consulting-malpractice>





## Students from the Fifteenth Master of Public Health (MPH) Cohort visit Manikganj to Understand Health Security Scheme (HSS) of Aarong

The 15<sup>th</sup> cohort of Master of Public Health students completed the field visit to Manikganj on 17-19 June, 2019, as part of the Health Economics & Health Care Financing module in the MPH program. The objective of this field-based experiential learning exercise was to provide students with the opportunity to learn how to design & modify a social health insurance scheme based on Bangladeshi client's and insurer's perspectives. This included an exercise to revise the existing benefit package of Aarong HSS with the dual objectives of improving accessibility and affordability of health services by the artisans of Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF).



This exercise engaged students to apply their public health vision, values, practices and community-centered ethos to real-world rural health programme management. The students applied different tools to analyze the needs of the community and to identify the areas of improvement in the HSS.



The Internship Programme at BRAC JPG School of Public Health provides opportunities for students of Public Health and related fields of Science and Social Sciences to complement their academic study with meaningful practical experience. The School provides a 'Social Laboratory' for Teaching and Learning – exposing students to the fields of Education, Training, Research, and Advocacy related to public health issues. Some of our interns who worked at the School this Summer shared their experiences:



## TARA HARUN, CANADA

16 JUNE-18 JULY, 2019

I am currently an undergraduate student at McGill University, studying Sociology. I was interested in this internship program, as I wanted to gain work experience not only in an office setting but also in the field, and this internship provides both opportunities. I worked with the research team of 'Male Youth and Their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh: a Mixed-methods Nationwide Study' project. The team had been very welcoming and I gained new experiences every day. The concept of masculinity intrigues me as a sociology major, and I have learnt information about young men and boys in Bangladesh that I never knew before, and never even thought of asking about or regarded as important. This internship has deepened my understanding of field research.



## MEHERAB HOSSAIN, USA

01 JUNE – 15 JULY, 2019

I am studying Bachelor of Arts in Math & Computer Science with an Physics Minor at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts. I worked closely with UNFPA ASRH (Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Team) investigating the accessibility, knowledge and barriers towards Sexual Reproductive Health of the youth in slums of Dhaka. The regular field work opportunities have been the highlight of my time here so far. We worked with numerous adolescent boys and girls dwelling in the slums Bhashantek, interviewing them and noting their answers. Besides this, I aided to find and interview a number of key stakeholders towards the accessibility of sexual reproductive health services including parents, nurses, paramedics and community health workers. I have enjoyed every moment working at BRAC JPGSPH.



## MANAL NIDA HUSSAIN, USA

15 JUNE- 03 AUGUST, 2019

I am currently a senior at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, U.S.A, studying International Studies and Health Studies. For someone who aspires to pursue a career in public health, I was looking to gain research experience during my summer break. At BRAC JPGSPH, I was a part of the 'Nationwide Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh' project. From my first week, the project team members gave me a very warm welcome and supported me to catch up to speed with the project. I also had opportunities to go on field visits as well. I also had the chance to attend and work at the Global Conference for Implementation Science and Scale-Up. In general, working at BRAC JPSPGH with different backgrounds has provided me with a unique experience.





## Course on Measurement and Survey Design by CLEAR/J-PAL South Asia at Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), India

J-PAL South Asia offered a three-day course for researchers and evaluation specialists from different disciplines on 8-10 May, 2019 in New Delhi, India.

The course focused on teaching key policy and research question related issues, how to design good survey instruments, how to pilot and refine a survey, and how to develop field protocols. Various topics were covered at the course which included - developing a theory of change to map the causal pathway of a program, using a theory of change to inform the selection of indicators, creating accurate and precise measurements, particularly for hard-to-measure concepts or sensitive information, strategies to mitigate measurement error, designing a digital survey questionnaire, piloting and refining the survey instrument, designing an effective field survey plan etc. **Mushfiqur Rahman**, Research Associate from BRAC JGSPH Participated in the three-day course.

J-PAL South Asia is based at the Institute for Financial Management and Research in India and leads J-PAL's work in the South Asia region.



## Refresher Training on: Public Health Managers' Professional Self-Management Skills Training

BRAC JPGSPH's GSK funded Public Health Leadership Development Training project organized a half-day Refresher Training on 10 June, 2019 at BRAC JPGSPH regarding 'Public Health Managers' Professional Self-Management Skills Training' based on last year's training on the same topic and the same group of participants. The training focused on providing competency based, hands-on training to build leadership and management skills for mid-level public health professionals from NGOs, CSOs, government, and private sectors.

A total of nine managers from different projects of BRAC JPGSPH participated in the training. The session was organized to reflect on six essential self-management skills for public health managers, where participants were divided into three groups to work on the progress they have achieved. The four supervisors gave input to the findings presented by the trainees. The training program was advised by **Mikhail I Islam**, Strategy & Design Consultant; and facilitated by **Anindya Das**, Coordinator; **Sairana Ahsan**, Research Fellow; and **Md Munirul Islam**, Senior Project Officer.







## Strengthening Voices and Capacities for Addressing Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh

BRAC JPGSPH and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organized a five-day short course from 14-18 July, 2019 on Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) and Law with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) funded by CREA.

A total of 21 participants joined the course from different organizations including Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Practical Action, World Vision, BRAC and Terre des Hommes Italia. Advocate **Sanaiyya Faheem Ansari**, Human Rights, Gender and SRHR Specialist, was the facilitator of the course. **Sudipta Mukhopadhyay**, resource person from India conducted sessions on understanding gender and SRHR, the evolution of SRHR agenda including ICPD and **Yogyakarta principle**. **Dr Debjyoti Ghosh**, Assistant Professor of Comparative Law, Asian University for Women (AUW), Chittagong conducted a session on how India brought an end to the decriminalization of Section 377 with a comparison to Bangladesh.

The five-day short course also had session on the struggles and challenges of Hijra (transgender) community where a transgender activist named **Shova Saker** shared her experience. **Farhana Alam**, Coordinator from BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University conducted the session on Diversity and Sexuality. **Farzana Wahid Shayan**, a renowned Singer, Gender Activist and Co-Founder of Visualizing Mental Health (VMH) joined the course.







## Training on: Innovating Quality Patient Care Everyday

BRAC JPGSPH's GSK funded Public Health Leadership Development Training project has conducted a second training of its second component titled 'Innovating Quality Patient Care Everyday' with another set of participants from BAPSA (Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh).

The purpose of this training is to apply innovative service quality improvements to Healthcare managers' patient services which enhance patient care. Design of this training program is based on the model of on the job coaching for 4 weeks and one day classroom facilitation.

The daylong classroom session was held on 10 July, 2019 at BAPSA Maternity Clinic in Dhaka Mirpur, where six mid-level managers from BAPSA clinic participated. Throughout the day they identified patient care experiences and improvements through role-play and walkway from entry to end point of each service delivery. They presented the patient care solutions to their supervisors and both parties agreed to implement the solutions at their workplace. The training program was facilitated by four BRAC JPGSPH facilitators by **Mikhail Islam**, Strategy and Design Consultant, **Anindya Das**, Coordinator; **Sairana Ahsan**, Research Fellow; and **Md Munirul Islam**, Senior Project Officer.





## Workshop on Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Application of One Health Approach in Bangladesh – 2018

One Health Secretariat (OHS), Bangladesh organized a Dissemination workshop on 'Strategic Framework and Action plan for Application of One Health Approach in Bangladesh - 2018' at the Department of Livestock Services DLS, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Farm-gate Dhaka on 23 June 2019. Professor **Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora**, Director, IEDCR, Chair, OHS, Coordination Committee, Joint Coordinator, One Health Bangladesh presented the core components of the revised framework along with short, mid and long term action plans.

**Dr Hires Ranjan Bhowmik**, Director General, DLS chaired the event. He highlighted the role of DLS in promoting OH in the country and also stressed active participation across stakeholders. **Dr Nahitun Naher**, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH represented the School at the event. The event ended with an interactive discussion session with participants who emphasized on capacity and awareness building.







## BRAC JPGSPH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Health Economics, Dhaka University

BRAC JPGSPH signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Health Economics (IHE), Dhaka University on May 19, 2019 at the IHE premises. The objective of the MoU is to build collaboration between the institutions with respect to expanding and institutionalizing the growing learning and research collaboration program in health economics and health systems education, research and scholarly services.

The MoU will allow both institutes to collaborate on research and relevant educational/capacity building grants to improve pedagogy, teaching and course content in graduate public health program and jointly hold, whenever appropriate and as funding permits, dissemination seminars, workshops, scientific conferences, etc. to further enhance public health training.

**Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean and Professor, signed the MoU on behalf of BRAC JPGSPH, and **Dr Syed Abdul Hamid**, Professor and Director signed the MoU on behalf of IHE. **Dr Zahidul Quayyum**, Professor and Co-Director of the Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), BRAC JPGSPH facilitated the collaboration between these two institutes. **Md Koushik Ahmed**, Deputy Director, MPH Program from BRAC JPGSPH; **Dr Nasrin Sultana**, Associate Professor; and **Dr Sharmeen Mobin Bhuiyan**, Associate Professor with other faculty members at IHE were also present in the ceremony.



## A Qualitative Evaluation of BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) Model in Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh

Even though early childhood is established to be a critical period of growth and development in children, there is a lack of evidence of Early Childhood Development (ECD) interventions in humanitarian settings. Through the HPL model, BRAC is focusing on ECD of refugee children from their 1000th day till six years of age. This study aims to understand what makes the HPL model unique in the Rohingya refugee camp setting.

The study aims to learn the indigenous knowledge, attitudes and practices of the community in terms of ECD and play-based learning, evaluate the HPL's impact on learning, healing and coping of children, acceptability of HPL and play based learning, how Rohingya cultural aspects and practices are being preserved through the model and what impact it has on social cohesiveness. A proposal was prepared in June 2019 based on preliminary field observations and experience during the fieldwork for the process documentation study in April 2019.

**Kaosar Afsana**, Professor, BRAC JPGSPH is the PI of the project. **Nazrana Khaled**, Deputy Project Coordinator is the Co-PI. Other team members include **Raafat Hassan**, Research Associate; **Saiara Subah**, Research Psychologist; **Farhana Mahbub**, Research Psychologist; **Shamima Akter**, Research Assistant; and **Mahmuda Aktar Sarkar**, Qualitative Data Manager.





## A Story of the Evolution of BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) in Rohingya Camps of Bangladesh

BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) is being implemented for Rohingya children aged 0-6 years in refugee camps of Cox's Bazar led by BRAC Institute of Education and Development. The model is run inside Child Friendly Spaces under Child Protection Sector. BRAC JPGSPH undertook Process Documentation (PD) of HPL to capture its evolution. A qualitative study was conducted to gather information interviewing service providers, field managers, major key stakeholders and community members and reviewing HPL documents.

The PD began in February 2019 and will continue till 2023. Data (September 2017-March 2019) highlighted how the play-based learning approach began in Sept 2017 and gradually scaled-up incorporating cultural elements, engaging Rohingya women as frontline workers, creating social cohesiveness, etc. Valuing context, culture, language and life in camps with empathy and respect, coping with the complexity of the camp coordination and developing a well-coordinated management system within BRAC have made the operations of the large scale BRAC HPL project possible with practical solutions on the ground.

**Kaosar Afsana**, Professor, BRAC JPGSPH is the PI of the project. **Atiya Rahman**, Sr Research Fellow and **Nazrana Khaled**, Deputy Project Coordinator are the Co-PIs. **Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH and Director of Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), and **AKM Mazharul Islam**, Adjunct Professor are the Technical Experts. The research team includes **Raafat Hassan**, Research Associate; **Muhammad Riaz Hossain**, Sr Field Coordinator; **Saiara Subah**, Research Psychologist; **Farhana Mahbub**, Research Psychologist; **Samira Raha**, Research Assistant; and **Mahmuda Aktar Sarkar**, Qualitative Data Manager.





## A Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh

### MoU Signing

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and BRAC JPGSPH on 22 May, 2019 to facilitate the 'A Study of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh' project. **Dr Nur Mohammad**, Line Director, Non Communicable Disease Control of DGHS and **Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean of BRAC JPGSPH signed the MoU for their respective organizations. **Dr S M Mustafizur Rahman**, Deputy Program Manager of DGHS, **Md Tanvir Hasan**, Assistant Professor and Co-Director, CUEH and PI of the project; **Raia Azmi**, Research Fellow and Co-PI; and **Irin Akhter**, Deputy Project Coordinator were also present there. According to the MoU, DGHS will provide technical assistance, facilitate field works and jointly organize dissemination events.



### Workshop

Two brainstorming workshops were conducted to identify priority areas for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) research, SRH intervention and policy advocacy for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh. First brainstorming workshop took place on 23 April, 2019; attended by government officials from different Government Offices; academics from Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka (DU); and BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED). **Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH was the Chair of the event. Second brainstorming workshop was held with participants from different Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Disabled Peoples' Organisations (DPOs) on 25 April, 2019.



### Field work

Piloting and pretesting of tools for the study took place during May 2019, in peri urban and rural areas of Tangail district and Bhashantek slum in Dhaka. In July, 60 field research assistants and 8 field coordinators were recruited, who underwent a week long training before fieldwork. BRAC JPGSPH research team and experts from Handicap International (HI), National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH), Turning Point Foundation facilitated the training sessions. The data collection for the nationwide survey has started from 15 July, and is continuing in eight divisions of Bangladesh at present.





## BRAC JPGSPH Hosted the first Annual Partners Meeting of Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity (ARISE) Hub

The ARISE (Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity) Hub hosted its first Annual Partners Meeting from 25-29 June, 2019 at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The ARISE Hub is a new multi-country research consortium set up to enhance accountability and improve the health and wellbeing of poor, marginalized people living in informal urban settlements in low-and-middle-income countries.

The meeting was attended by 36 delegates from 11 partner organizations of the ARISE consortium from five different countries - the United Kingdom, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh. **Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH and PI, ARISE Bangladesh; all PIs of partner organizations; and ARISE Project PI **Sally Theobald**, Professor of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine attended the meeting. **Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) also attended the inauguration session as an Advisory Board member of the Consortium. **Asif Saleh**, Executive Director of BRAC also graced the meeting on behalf of BRAC.

The participants also visited BRAC's activities at Korail slum. ARISE Bangladesh partner BRAC JPGSPH also hosted a dinner where **Professor Vincent Chang**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University; **Dr Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice-Chair, BRAC and Advisor, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University; and **KAM Morshed**, Director, BRAC Advocacy for Social Change, Technology and Partnership Strengthening Unit were present as well. ARISE Hub also organized a parallel session titled 'Accountability for Equity in Urban Informal Health: Lessons from the ARISE Partnership' on 30 June at Global Conference on Implementation Science and Scale-Up.

**Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH is the PI of ARISE project. **Bachera Aktar**, Co-assistant Director, CGSRHR. BRAC JPGSPH is coordinating the project. Other team members include **Nadia Farnaz**, Senior Research Associate; **Pushpita Ray**, Research Associate; **Sumona Siddiqua**, Research Associate; **Wafa Alam**, Research Associate; **Abdul Awal**, Senior Research Assistant; and **Samiha Ali**, Research Assistant. **Shafinaz Sobhan**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow works as part time staff and **Ateeb Ahmad Parray**, Visiting Fellow works as short term staff with the research team.





## Health Seeking Behaviour for Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) Services of Rohingya Women in Rohingya Camps of Cox's Bazar: An Ethnographic Study

In camps of Cox's Bazaar, Rohingya women and adolescent girls have minimum access to basic health care, such as, maternal and new-born care and other reproductive and sexual health-related services especially family planning. This study aims to illustrate health seeking behaviour of the Rohingya population by exploring their socio-cultural, religious beliefs and practices of pregnancy, childbirth, new-born care and family planning. The study is being funded by World Health Organization (WHO), Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

An applied anthropological approach has been used to explore the community perceptions and practices related to health seeking behaviour of pregnant and currently delivered women. The team conducted 27 In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) with pregnant women and women with a child aged less than 6 years, 19 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) among which were formal and informal health providers, representatives from SRH organizations and community influential, four FGDs with husbands of pregnant and recently delivered women. Data collection has been commenced on Mid May 2019 and was continued to the end of June 2019.

**Kaosar Afsana**, Professor, BRAC JGSPH is the PI of the project. **Atiya Rahman**, Sr Research Fellow is the Co-PI. **Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR); **Zahidul Quayyum**, Phd, Professor and Co-Director of Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), and **AKM Mazharul Islam**, Professor are the Technical Experts for the study. The research team includes **Nazrana Khaled**, Deputy Project Coordinator; and **Mahmuda Aktar Sarkar**, Qualitative Data Manager.





## Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid presented at a Round-table on Exploring the Realities of Adolescent Girls and Boys: Findings from the GAGE Bangladesh Research

A round-table on 'Exploring the Realities of Adolescent Girls and Boys: Findings from Gage Bangladesh Research' in Dhaka took place on 7 July, 2019 at the BRAC Centre. **Professor Sabina Rashid**, Dean, BRAC JPG School of Public Health, BRAC University and **Dr Mohammad Ashraful Haque**, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) jointly presented on the headline findings on six capability areas of the research. **Maheen Sultan**, Senior Fellow Practice, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), and GAGE Bangladesh Research Uptake and Impact Coordinator gave an overview of GAGE's research and research aims, partnerships and time frame.

**Imran Matin**, Executive Director, BIGD welcomed the participants at the round-table. **Dr Mahamud-UI-Hoque**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education and National Program Coordinator, Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) Project gave opening statement on the importance of GAGE Programme for Bangladesh. A panel discussion on 'Harnessing the potential of adolescents as Bangladesh reaches middle-income status education, skills and well-being' took place at the round table. **Md Ataur Rahman**, Director, Department of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; **Dr Md Jaynal Haque**, Programme Manager (Adolescent and Reproductive Health), DGFP, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr Muhammad Munir Hussain**, Program Analyst-A&Y, UNFPA Bangladesh and **Ms Mohua Rashid**, Director, Strategy, Knowledge Management and Corporate affairs, UCEP Bangladesh joined the panel discussion.

The Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) project's qualitative aspect is led by the Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR) at BRAC JPGSPH with partnership with BIGD. The quantitative part is led by IPA.





## Understanding the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Male Youth in Bangladesh

The study team conducted a nationwide quantitative data collection for 11,110 individuals (15-24 years old males) from 370 unions across 8 divisions during April-June, 2019. An extensive desk review was performed to identify the gaps and challenges of existing programs and policies regarding the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) for the male youth. As a continuation of the study plan, to identify the challenges of implementation in SRH program for male youth, the team gathered expert opinion from **Mallick Sayeed Mahbub**, Joint Secretary; and **Md Faruk Ahmed**, Director General and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

**Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, and Director of Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC JPGSPH is the PI of the project. **Farzana Misha**, Research Coordinator; and **Subas Chandra Biswas**, Senior Research Fellow are the Co-PIs. Other team members include **Riaz Hossain**, Senior Field Coordinator; **Kazi Sameen Nasar**, Research Associate, **Saifa Raz**, Research Fellow; **Nahela Nowshin**, Research Associate; **Rafia Sultana**, Research Associate; Team Member; **Abdul Jabbar**, Senior Field coordinator; **Syed Hassan Imtiaz**, Research Associate; **A.S.M. Nadim**, Research Associate; **Rokibul Islam**, Research Associate; **Lamia Saiyara Mela**, Research Assistant and **Md Arfat Uddin**, Data Manager.





### Why join the Sonar-Global network?



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## A Global Social Sciences Network for Infectious Threats and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) - SoNAR Global

The SoNAR Global Scientific Advisory Board Meeting was held on June 12, 2019. The Objective of this Teleconference meeting was to take a decision on which community engagement structures will be piloted in Work Package 4: The Development of Models of Multiscale, Dialogue-based Engagement with Local Stakeholders in Bangladesh (Task 4.2) and Eastern Europe (Task 4.3).

Along with BRAC JPGSPH, all the lead partners of work package 4 including NIVEL-Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, Netherlands; Medical University of Vienna, Austria; Makerere University, Uganda; Public Health Center (PHC), Ukraine; University College London, UK; Institut Pasteur, France and the Sonar Global Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members also representative from WHO joined the teleconference.

Three country presentations were made based on mapping exercise and review of various community engagement structures in Bangladesh, Uganda, and Ukraine. We draw upon various community engagement (CE) projects to assess the ability of existing structures and tailored the assessment country specifically. This mapping exercise followed various steps; e.g. searching for relevant documents, preparing inventory, review, analysis of project documents and finally develop a tentative community engagement model. For Bangladesh, the blue print of model focused AMR and infection threats, in Ukraine on influenza/measles vaccination, in Uganda on Ebola and AMR preparedness.



## Leave No One Behind - Exploring the Healthcare-Seeking Behavior of Floating Population (Street Dwellers) in Dhaka, Bangladesh: A Pilot Study

International Civil Society Organizations (ICOS), sharing a common platform, came up with a multi-year project 'Leave No One Behind' in 2017 for addressing the problem of marginalized population. BRAC JPGSPH study team explored current scenario and data availability for different groups of marginalized population in Bangladesh through a rapid review in 2018. After conducting the rapid review, ICOS was interested to conduct a study to explore the problem of the marginalized people in Dhaka city, therefore, BRAC JPGSPH developed the proposal accordingly. The study aimed to explore the scenario of health care seeking behavior and available health care services, and identify gaps at the policy and programme levels for achieving universal health coverage in Bangladesh by 2030 for the street dwellers and floating population.

The study team conducted 15 In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) and 6 informal discussions with the adult (age>18 years) street dwellers/floating populations in three selected areas (Kamalapur rail station, High Court Mazar Premises, and Sadarghat launch terminal). After that, we conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with the relevant Health Care Providers (HCPs) from public medical college hospitals and NGOs and the Policymakers (high government officials). Findings revealed that most of the floating people/street dwellers were from the lower socio-economic class of the society and most of them were landless and homeless. In terms of health-seeking behavior, most of the IDI respondents preferred visiting drug shops and only a few of them visited formal health facilities when the disease was severe.

**Professor Syed Masud Ahmed**, Director, CoE-HS&UHC is the PI of the study. The research team also includes **Dr Nahitun Nahar**, Sr Research Fellow; **Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune**, Sr Research Associate; and **Roksana Haque**, Sr Research Associate. The study was funded by BRAC Advocacy Department.





## 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

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 project is currently being implemented under Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) at BRAC JPGSPH.

**Professor Syed Masud Ahmed**, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) is the PI and **Dr Nahitun Naher**, Sr Research Fellow, is the Co-PI of the Bangladesh study of the project. The team also includes **Dr Bushra Zarin Islam**, Sr Research Associate, **Raihanul Islam**, Research Associate and three Data Collection Officers.

The team completed data collection for the quantitative component of the study which comprises a Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE) including a provider survey on doctors' absenteeism. Between April-August 2019, the study team collected 300 plus data from doctors working in four tertiary public hospitals: Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital (ShSMC), Sir Salimullah Medical College & Mitford Hospital (SSMC), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Mugda Medical College & Hospital. Doctors who have experience of working in rural facilities in the last ten years participated in the survey. The findings are expected to assist informed policy decision making addressing absenteeism and rural retention of doctors. Study team is currently analyzing the survey data to present the early findings in partners' conference to be held in September, 2019 in London, UK.



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## Assessing BRAC's Innovative Health Loans in Protecting the Poor against Health and Asset Vulnerability in Bangladesh

BRAC has been running an innovative Medical Treatment Loan (MTL), offering medical loans with individually defined, repayment schedules to microcredit clients in need of medical care since 2013. With the support from the Inequality Challenge Project, The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has commissioned a grant to BRAC JPGSPH to address these challenges by complementing the existing MTL program through a decentralization and digitalization reform, as well as through innovations in product design. In addition, the proposed program design allows for a rigorous evaluation regarding the effects and processes of BMC's implemented revised MTLs.

The developed product designed by BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University has been finalized and approved by BRAC Microfinance team. The team worked with BRAC Microfinance team in launching the product among the beneficiaries. Training was conducted among relevant BRAC staffs – Regional Managers (RMs), Area Managers (AMs), Branch Managers (BMs), and Program Officers (POs). BRAC JPGSPH team also conducted training among beneficiary groups. BRAC Microfinance effectively launched the developed product by conducting on-board sessions which introduced staffs to the new product and assigned their responsibilities.

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH, is the PI of the study. **Atonu Rabbani**, Associate Scientist is the Co-PI. **Md Nazmul Islam**, Research Fellow; **Mushfiqur Rahman**, Research Associate; **Rubaiya Riya Siddiqua**, Senior Research Assistant, **Sanjana Nujhat**, Research Associate; **Ibrahim Hossain Sajal**, Statistician - are working as investigators for the project. **Jony Barnard Mackfield**, Field Coordinator; and **Md Ashraful Alam**, Sr Field Coordinator are part of the Research team.







## A Media Experiment to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh

The project 'A Media Experiment to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh' has been developed based on the results from a large-scale data collection in Bangladesh (Buchmann et al., 2018) showing that low-income husbands are significantly more likely to respond to disobedience with violence. The study plans on designing a large-scale media experiment and collect a detailed cross-sectional dataset to elicit social norms regarding the spousal disobedience.

Through a two-step approach, the study investigates elicit social norms concerning the use of violence in response to spousal behavior. Based on the findings the study will design an intervention aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic violence in Bangladesh. BRAC JPGSPH has received grants from South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and Canadian Grand Challenges; and intends to initiate the project from June, 2019. The research teams are currently developing the necessary tools for data collection, the piloting phase will be initiated from July-August 2019.

**Atonu Rabbani**, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPG School of Public Health is the Co-PI of the project. The project also has two international Co-PIs - **Paula Lopez-Pena** and **Nina Buchmann**. **Mushfiqur Rahman**, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH is working as an investigator.



## Entertainment Education Campaign

UNICEF Bangladesh has launched a trans-media entertainment education campaign for changing social norms of engaging in child marriage in high prevalent child marriage areas in Bangladesh. This campaign is focused on shifting community perception and attitude regarding child marriage along with other closely related critical issues like menstrual hygiene, adolescent health and healthcare seeking behavior, safe sex, enrolment, and retention in secondary schools, sexual abuse and harassment.

BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University with the support of UNICEF formulated and operationalized an evaluation framework to evaluate the impact of this trans-media campaign on the expected improvement of attitude and shift of perception regarding adolescent developmental issues. Multiple surveys (baseline, midline, and end line) on the same cohort of the population with a mixed-method approach was designed to evaluate the impact of 13 the trans-media campaign. The team is now preparing to conduct the end-line survey through tool finalization, enumerator recruitment and training.

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH is the PI of the study. **Atonu Rabbani**, Associate Scientist is the Co-PI. **Md Nazmul Islam**, Research Fellow; **Mushfiqur Rahman**, Research Associate; **Rubaiya Riya Siddiqua**, Sr Research Assistant; **Sanjana Nujhat**, Research Associate; **Ibrahim Hossain Sajal**, Statistician, are working as investigators for the project. **Jony Barnard Mcfield**, Field Coordinator; and **Md Ashrafal Alam**, Sr Field Coordinator are part of the Research Team.





## Health, Hygiene and Housing in Bangladesh (Phase II)

Implemented under the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU) at BRAC JPGSPH, the study focuses on upgrading housing (through concrete floor construction) and finding outcomes in children's (under five) risks of exposures from mud floors. The implementation is conducted by ADESH (Association of Development for Economic & Social Help), and the program is funded by ARCHIVE Global.

The end line quantitative survey is on-going. Additionally the qualitative IDIs and FGDs among the beneficiaries are also being conducted. The end line survey is being conducted in Dhamrai and Savar, two sub-districts in peri-urban areas of the capital city Dhaka with total of 315 sample households. The endline report with detailed analysis and findings from the survey will be shared with the donor by September 2019. **Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH, is the PI of the study.

**Dr Atonu Rabbani**, Associate Scientist is the Co-PI. **Mushfiqur Rahman**, Research Associate; **Rubaiya Riya Siddiqua**, Sr Research Assistant; **Rukhshan Fahmi**, Research Associate are working as Investigators. **Jony Barnard Mackfield**, Field Coordinator; **Sanjana Nujhat**, Research Associate; **Md Ashraful Alam**, Sr Field Coordinator; and **Antara Roy**, Transcriber are also part of the research team.







## Implementation Research Focusing on Health System Strengthening in UNICEF Supported Areas in Bangladesh

The project aims to identify the key implementation challenges and explore opportunities for scale-up in UNICEF supported areas in Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh for improving the health and well-being of the Rohingya people. Keeping that in mind several key implementation challenges regarding the implementation of MNCH programme for the Rohingyas were identified using a scoping review of literature and a series of Key informant interviews done with key personnel working in the field during Phase-1 which ended in March 2019.

In Phase-2, the activities includes refining IR questions, develop details methodology and obtain ethical approval, data collection, report writing and arranging a dissemination workshop and policy dialogue at the end of the project period. The timeline is from May 2019 till October 2019. The field data collection for the project took place from 2 to 15 July, 2019 in several Rohingya camps in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH, is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the project. **Yameen Majumdar**, Sr Project Consultant; **Avijit Saha**, Research Fellow and Focal Person; **Mowtushi Matin**, Research Associate; and **Saima Mehjabeen**, Research Associate are also involved in the project.







## Partnership to Ensure the Sustainability of a Public Health Palliative Care Project in Bangladesh through Community Theatre: A Follow on Project

The project aims to explore local contexts, indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, values and languages of death, dying and end of life care in the specific urban slums of Bangladesh. Funded by AHRC UK, 'Partnership to Ensure the Sustainability of a Public Health Palliative Care Project in Bangladesh through Community Theatre', is a collaboration between BRAC JPG School of Public Health with partners in the UK and Bangladesh.

A dissemination and film screening on 'Raising Palliative Care through Community Theatre' was held on 21 April, 2019 at ULAB auditorium. Another meeting was held with all local partners on 23 April, 2019 to share the experiences and observation of all participants based on their first-year work experience. A half-day-long training session was held on 5 May, 2019 to discuss all the relevant topics for all interdisciplinary partner's mutual understanding such as Public Health, Anthropology, Palliative Care, Art and theatre at Centre for Palliative Care (CPC), BSMMU. Field Data collection is ongoing for the project. The first phase of Ethnography started from 15 May, 2019. The second phase of the study is also ongoing at the Narayanganj City Corporation.

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH, is the Local PI of the study. **Dr Puspita Hossain**, Research Associate; and **Sayema Akter**, Sr Research Associate are working as Investigators for the project. The project is being implemented under the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH.





## Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication (STRIPE)

The Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication (STRIPE) study has already started to develop a course under 10 global health knowledge domains as a part of the next phase of the project. Each prioritized domain will be organized into an academic module and addresses core competencies in Implementation Science using examples from Polio. For this purpose, a global teaching team has been already selected by John Hopkins University.

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH; **Dr Yameen Mazumder**, Senior Project Specialist, CoE-SISU; and **Dr Humayra Binte Anwar**, Research Associate will be part of the teaching team from BRAC JPGSPH.

A parallel session was conducted under the STRIPE project at the Global Conference on Implementation Science and Scale-Up 2019. The parallel session was comprised of presentations explaining the initial findings of the STRIPE study and comparing implementation of a complex initiative within seven country cases and across epidemiological typologies. The session was chaired by **Dr Tajul Islam A Bari**, Former Program Manager, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh. Following the session, STRIPE project conducted a Teaching Team meeting on July 3, 2019 at BRAC JPGSPH with partners from Indonesia, India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the USA.





## The Ethics of Health Policy Experiments: A Global Framework for Design and Oversight

The Ethics of Health Policy Experiments: A Global Framework for Design and Oversight Data collection is ongoing in the pilot phase of the project 'The Ethics of Health Policy Experiments: A Global Framework for Design and Oversight'. This project is a collaboration between BRAC JPG School of Public Health with Researchers from University of Heidelberg; the TH Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University; and the School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

**Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU), BRAC JPGSPH, is the PI of the study. **Dr Atonu Rabbani**, Associate Scientist is the Co-PI. **Mrittika Barua**, Senior Research Associate; and **Puspita Hossain**, Research Associate are working as Investigators for the project. **Syeda Tahmina Ahmed**, Senior Research Assistant; and **Sharmin Akter Shitol**, Research Assistant are also part of the research team.

A deliberative workshop with national and international stakeholders was organized on 2 July, 2019 at BRAC JPGSPH which was attended by partners of ETHIPOLEX from University of Heidelberg, TH Chan School of Public Health Harvard University, School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), and other national and international researchers. ETHIPOLEX had a parallel session at the Global Conference on Implementation Science and Scale-Up chaired by **Dr Abu Abdullah**, Research Professor of Global Health, Duke University; and moderated by Dr Atonu Rabbani. Participants included Professor **Daniel Wikler**, **Mary B Saltonstall**, Professor of Ethics and Population Health; Professor Melkizedeck Leshabari, MUHAS; **Dr Emmy Metta**, Lecturer, MUHAS; **Dr Puspita Hossain**, Sr Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH; and **Astrid Berner-Rodoreda**, Researcher, Heidelberg University.







## Understanding the Patterns and Determinants of Health in South Asian People - South Asian Biobank

A Steering Committee meeting of NCD project titled 'Understanding the patterns and determinants of health in South Asian People - South Asian Biobank' was held in Delhi, India. **Dr Mehedi Hasan** from BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University attended the meeting.



## Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN) organized a Pre-conference Forum on Scale-Up

The Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN) organized a pre-conference forum on scale up on 29 June 2019 at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. The objectives of the forum were to discuss what works for scale up and how interventions can be adapted and scaled up in ways which are accessible, equitable and sustainable for the whole scaling up process. **Brian Oldenburg**, Professor and Director, WHO presented 'Science of Scale up'. **Professor Vilma Irazola**, Director of the Department of Chronic Diseases, Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy, Argentina discussed 'Research methods, measures and study designs for scale-up'. **Professor Rohit Ramaswamy**, Gillings School of Global Public Health, and University of North Carolina, USA discussed 'Involving researchers, policy-makers, program implementers, communities and other stakeholders for scaling up'. **Atonu Rabbani**, Associate Professor, Dhaka University and Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, Bangladesh presented 'Role of Economic Evaluation in Implementation Science and Scale-up'. **Dr Malay Kanti Mridha**, Director, Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition delivered a presentation on the CNCDN and its activities.





## National Health Service Week Observed

The Developing Midwives Project (DMP) arranged community health check-up camps in six divisions through its partner academic sites on 18 April, 2019 to observe the National Health Service Week - 2019. The students went to their respective nearby communities to provide basic health check-up, random blood sugar test, BMI calculation, antenatal and post-natal check-ups to the general people.

The students demonstrated hand washing techniques, talked about adolescent health in order to raise awareness on health and personal hygiene issues. They also conducted sessions on self-breast examination, demonstrated normal vaginal delivery and provided family planning counselling, family planning commodities and nutritional counselling. Every year, National Health Service Week is celebrated nationally by the Government of Bangladesh to create awareness where health service providers and their patients get an opportunity to bond with each other.



## International Day of the Midwife 2019

International Day of the Midwife (IDM) 2019 was celebrated with the theme 'Midwives: Defender of Women Rights'. Developing Midwives Project took two different initiatives to advocate midwifery education and profession this year.

A mass media campaign containing Television Talk Shows and Op-Ed in online news media took place and the academic sites celebrated the day in collaboration with their stakeholders within their respective communities. The mass media campaign included stakeholders like Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC), Directorate General Of Nursing & Midwifery (DGNM), Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) to reach the mass population. This campaign was arranged to reach through the mainstream electronic media, which included participating in three talk shows for three different TV channels and writing several Op-Eds on Midwifery Education.

DMP's Project Director **Dr Selina Amin** with former OGSB President **Professor Laila Arjumand Banu** and BMS President **Momtaj Begum** participated in a talk show for Independent Television. On 5 May, Dr Selina Amin participated in another talk show with Additional Director General of MoHFW Professor **Nasima Sultana** and Team Leader of DMP's Midwifery Education Team, **Kalapana Roy** in a live talk show televised in Nagorik TV. On the same day, DMP's Strategy Advisor **Dr Sharmina Rahman** participated in a talk show in Deepto TV along with OGSB President **Professor Sameena Chowdhury** and BNMC Registrar **Suraiya Begum**.

Links to the national media coverage on International Day of the Midwife 2019:

[IDM 2019 Talk Show Independent TV](#)

[IDM 2019 Talk Show at Deepto TV](#)

[IDM 2019 Talk Show a](#)

[Op-Ed at bdnews24](#)







## Ashfique Rizwan appeared for a Live Interview at 'Shubho Shokal Bangladesh'

**Ashfique Rizwan**, Deputy Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, was invited for a live interview in the 'Shubho Shokal Bangladesh' program of News 24 channel aired on 11 June, 2019. He shared his experience of working in 'Psychodrama as Transformative Intervention in the SRH of Young Men in Urban Slum in Dhaka: Proof of a Novel Approach' project under the supervision of **Professor Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean, BRAC JPGSPH and PI of the project. The objective of the project was to identify the existing sexual practices and explore the risk behaviors of urban young adult men (aged 18-29 years) living in Dhaka slums. Ashfique also shared his life journey as a film actor, and how he got a chance to act in the movie Bengali Beauty which was commercially released in USA, UK, and Bangladesh in 2018 and in China in 2019.

Watch the full interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCXXQy7ZH4k>





## A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DAVID SANDERS



**PROFESSOR DAVID SANDERS**

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Professor David Sanders, a visionary public health activist and an internationally renowned pediatrician and public health researcher, who spent over fifty years working in Zimbabwe, UK and South Africa.

Professor Sanders was a founding member of People's Health Movement (PHM) at its creation in 2000 in Savar, Bangladesh and has been the co-chair of PHM for the past six years. He was the founding director of the School of Public Health (SOPH) at University of Western Cape in Capetown, South Africa from its inception in 1993 till 2009. He contributed immensely to health and education policy development, at both national and provincial levels, in South Africa. He is the author of many peer reviewed articles and three books: *The Struggle for Health*; *Questioning the Solution*; and *Fatal Indifference: The G8, Africat and Global Health*.

Dr Mushtaque Chowdhury, Adviser and founding Dean of BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health expressed his deepest condolences on the passing of David Sanders. He recalled their friendship and mentioned that David's passing is an irreparable loss to the movement for people's health. Dr Chowdhury also recalled David's efforts to organize the first PHA in Savar in 2000 with Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, the founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra and renowned Public Health Activist at the birth of People's Health Movement (PHM).

We express our deepest condolences. May his soul rest in peace.



MAY

COMMENT: A NEW SOCIAL SCIENCES NETWORK FOR INFECTIOUS THREATS

Authors: Tamara Giles-Vernick, Ruth Kutalek, David Napier, David Kaawa-Mafigiri, Michel Dückers, John Paget, **Syed Masud Ahmed**, Phaik Yeong Cheah, Alice Desclaux, Daniel De Vries, Anita Hardon, Hayley MacGregor, Christopher Pell, **Sabina F Rashid**, Roman Rodyna, Constance Schultz, Khoudia Sow, Annie Wilkinson. Published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases | Published on May 2019 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(19\)30159-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(19)30159-8/fulltext)

PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER BIRTH IN URBAN SLUMS OF DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Authors: Rashidul Azad, **Rukhshan Fahmi**, Sadichhya Shrestha, Hemraj Joshi, **Mehedi Hasan**, Abdullah Nurus Salam Khan, Mohiuddin Ahsanul Kabir Chowdhury, Shams El Arifeen, Sk Masum Billah. Published in PlosOne | Published on May 2, 2019 <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0215735>

WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR CATARACT SURGERIES AMONG PATIENTS VISITING EYE CARE FACILITIES IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Authors: **Muhammed Nazmul Islam**, Thomas Engels, Shafayet Hossain, **Malabika Sarker**, **Atonu Rabbani**. Published in Springer Link | Published on May 7, 2019 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40258-019-00478-3>

GEOGENIC ARSENIC AND MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION IN DRINKING WATER SOURCES: EXPOSURE RISKS TO THE COASTAL POPULATION IN BANGLADESH

Authors: Ratnajit Saha, **Nepal C. Dey**, Mahfuzar Rahman, Prosun Bhattacharya, and Golam H. Rabbani. Published in Frontiers in Environmental Science | Published on May 8, 2019 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2019.00057>

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT IN AFGHANISTAN: A CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY 2015

Authors: **Rajat Das Gupta**, Krystal Swasey, Vanessa Burrowes, Mohammad Rashidul Hashan, Gulam Muhammed Al Kibria. Published in BMJ Open | Published on May 14, 2019 <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/5/e025715.full>

WHO TAKES ACTION TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Authors: Lawrence O Gostin, Ibrahim Abubakar, Ranieri Guerra, **Sabina F Rashid**, Eric A Friedman, Zsuzsanna Jakab. Published in the Lancet | Published on May 18, 2019 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)31051-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)31051-7/fulltext)

ASSESSING INFORMED CONSENT PRACTICES DURING NORMAL VAGINAL DELIVERY AND IMMEDIATE POSTPARTUM CARE IN TERTIARY-LEVEL HOSPITALS OF BANGLADESH.

Authors: Md Abdul Karim, Syed Imran Ahmed, Jannatul Ferdous, **Bushra Zarin Islam**, Henok Ayalew Tegegne, **Bachera Aktar**. Published in European Journal of Midwifery | Published on May 21, 2019 <http://www.europeanjournalofmidwifery.eu/Assessing-Informed-Consent-Practices-During-Normal-Vaginal-Delivery-Process-and-Immediate,109311,0,2.html>

JUNE

RETHINKING HEALTH SYSTEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF URBANISATION: CHALLENGES FROM FOUR RAPIDLY URBANISING LOW-INCOME AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES.

Authors: Helen Elsey, Irene Agyepong, Rumana Huque, **Zahidul Quayyum**, Sushil Baral, Bassey Ebenso, Chandani Kharel, Riffat Ara Shawon, Obinna Onwujekwe, Benjamin Uzochukwu, Justice Nonvignon, Genevieve Cecilia Aryeetey, Sumit Kane, Tim Ensor, Tolib Mirzoev. Published in the BMJ Journal | Published on June 16, 2019 <https://gh.bmj.com/content/4/3/e001501.abstract>

EXPERIENCE AND PERCEIVED QUALITY OF CARE OF PATIENTS AND THEIR ATTENDANTS IN A SPECIALIZED MENTAL HOSPITAL IN BANGLADESH

Authors: Nazmun Nahar Nuri, **Malabika Sarker**, Helal Uddin Ahmed, Mohammad Didar Hossain, Claudia Beiersmann and Albrecht Jahn Published in the International Journal of Mental Health System | Published on June 22, 2019 <https://ijmhs.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13033-019-0303-x>

ART THERAPY TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE OF CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR CARERS IN BANGLADESH

Authors: Rumana Dowla, Annekathryn Goodman, **Tahsin Kashem** Published in the Journal of Cancer Therapy | Published on June 24, 2019

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES REGARDING MALARIA CONTROL AMONG THE SLASH AND BURN CULTIVATORS IN RANGAMATI HILL TRACTS OF BANGLADESH

Authors: **Avijit Saha**, **Malabika Sarker**, Moktadir Kabir, Guangyu Lu, and Olaf Müller. Published in the BMC Malaria Journal | Published on June 25, 2019 <https://malariajournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12936-019-2849-0>

PERCEPTIONS OF APPROPRIATE TREATMENT AMONG THE INFORMAL ALLOPATHIC PROVIDERS: INSIGHTS FROM A QUALITATIVE STUDY IN TWO PERI-URBAN AREAS IN BANGLADESH

Authors: M. Monaemul Islam, Herfina Y. Nababan, Md. Kaoser Bin Siddique, Shariful Islam, Sukanta Paul, Anup Kumar Paul and **Syed Masud Ahmed**. Published in the BMC Health Services Research | Published on June 26, 2019 <https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12913-019-4254-3>

JULY

SITUATION ANALYSIS FOR DELIVERING INTEGRATED COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS CONDITION FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN COX’S BAZAR, BANGLADESH: PROTOCOL FOR A MIXEDMETHOD STUDY.

Authors: Rushdia Ahmed, **Nadia Farnaz**, **Bachera Aktar**, **Raafat Hassan**, Sharid Bin Shafique, **Pushpita Ray**, **Abdul Awal**, **Atiya Rahman**, Veronique Urbaniak, Loulou Hassan Kobeissi, Jeffries Rosie, Lale Say, **Md Tanvir Hasan**, **Zahidul Quayyum**, **Sabina Faiz Rashid**. Published in the BMJ Open | Published on July 3, 2019 <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/7/e028340.full>

‘CONNECTING THE DOTS’ FOR GENERATING A MOMENTUM FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN BANGLADESH: FINDINGS FROM A CROSS-SECTIONAL DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

Authors: **Syed Masud Ahmed**, Lal B Rawal, **Nahitun Naher**, Tarek Hossain Published in: The BMJ Journals | Published on: 17 July 2019 <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/7/e024509>

PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES AMONG BANGLADESHI ADULTS: FINDINGS FROM A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Authors: Fouzia Khanam, **Md. Belal Hossain**, **Sabuj Kanti Mistry**, **Kaosar Afsana**, Mahfuzar Rahman. Published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health | Published on July 18, 2019 <https://www.atlantis-press.com/journals/jegh/125913526>