ANNUAL
REPORT
2023
The School's Journey at a Glance

2004
The School was founded with the vision to create a leading global public health institute

2006
1st Cohort of the MPH programme graduated
The School started serving as the Secretariat for Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

2007
Established the Centre for Professional Skills Development (CPSD)
Featured by WHO as one of the region’s top 6 public health schools

2013
Established the Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

2012
Launched the Developing Midwives Project, Bangladesh’s first-ever private sector midwifery education initiative
Established the Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

2016
Established the Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

2017
Established the Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

2018
The Dean and the Associate Dean of the School were recognised as ‘Heroines of Health’ by GE Healthcare and Women in Global Health

2023
Established 3 new Research Hubs:
1. Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)
2. Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)
3. Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)

2021
Established the Humanitarian Research Hub

2019
Received the Public Health Education Leadership Award by the South-East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN)
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BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University, was founded by Late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed in 2004 in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address the unmet public health challenges particular to the developing world. The School is dedicated to contributing to public health by offering unparalleled real-life, community-centric teaching and learning experiences on critical and emerging global public health challenges and creating public health leaders and innovative solutions. The School employs an interdisciplinary integration of Education, Training, Research and Advocacy to effectively address diverse health realities affecting disadvantaged communities.

Vision
To be the leading global Public Health Institute for the world’s critical health challenges affecting disadvantaged communities

Mission
To create innovative public health leaders and solutions through cutting-edge, experiential Education, Training, Research and Advocacy

Partnership with BRAC
The School works in close collaboration with its institutional partner BRAC, the world's biggest NGO. Research partnership with BRAC allows the School to contribute evidence to inform BRAC’s programmes and policies. BRAC field operations in communities offer a dynamic and diverse learning laboratory for our Master of Public Health (MPH) students.
As our School enters its 20th year of operation, I am honoured to present the BRAC JPGSPH Annual Report 2023 to you. This report captures snapshots of our collective efforts in contributing to the public health sector in Bangladesh and beyond. It has been a remarkable year for the School, marked by impactful collaborations, the development of emerging research areas, and the launch of exciting new grants.

Having joined the School just a few months ago, I am inspired by the dedication and passion of the BRAC JPGSPH community. Personally, it has been an inspiring period of new learning, collaborations, and understanding of the incredible impact that our School has on public health education and research, both globally and nationally.

Our Master of Public Health (MPH) programme continues to empower future public health leaders with experiential teaching and learning tailored to meet evolving public health demands. The Midwifery Education Programme (MEP) programme ensures the continuous generation of competent midwives who play a significant role in essential maternal and newborn care. Our researchers continue to push boundaries, resulting in insightful findings. Training initiatives at the school are designed to equip professionals from various sectors with practical skills and knowledge. The advocacy efforts led by our teams engage policymakers and communities, driving forward impactful changes in health policies and promoting equity in healthcare access.

Looking toward the future, we aim to expand our reach and deepen our impact within the public health landscape. With a strong commitment to excellence and innovation, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that encourages collaboration and the exchange of knowledge. The year ahead holds promising opportunities for us to continue making meaningful strides in research, education, training, and advocacy, shaping a healthier and more resilient future for all.

This document is a testament to the tireless work and commitment of the faculty, researchers, and staff at the School. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported the School and contributed to its success. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can create lasting change and make a difference in the lives of millions.

Laura Reichenbach, MPA, ScD
Dean, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)
As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our esteemed faculty, staff, and students at BRAC JPGSPH.

In the face of global uncertainties and public health crises, our School has remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing knowledge, promoting solutions for public health challenges, and co-creating next generation leaders of public health. The diverse range of research, advocacy, and educational initiatives undertaken by the School continues to make a meaningful impact on lives of people nationally, regionally, and globally.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the collaborative spirit that defines our institution. Through your collective efforts, we have not only overcome obstacles but also forged new paths toward excellence in public health education and research.

In 2024, we are going the celebrate 20 years of our journey. Looking ahead, I am confident that BRAC JPGSPH will continue to be a beacon of innovation and leadership in the field of public health. Together, let us embrace the opportunities before us and work towards a healthier and more equitable world.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the mission and vision of our School.

Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, PhD
Deputy Dean and Director
Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
After a decade of serving as the Dean (2013-2023) and overseeing BRAC JPGSPH, I am excited to announce my transition to a new role within the institution. I am honoured to take on the position of Professor, holding the Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Poverty and Health, generously endowed by the late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the esteemed founder of BRAC. The Chair is dedicated to fostering intellectual engagement and scholarship. Reflecting on my journey since joining the school at its inception in 2004, as Associate Dean and Professor in 2011, and ultimately as Dean in August 2013—I am deeply grateful and proud of our collective achievements at the school.

As Dean, I embraced the opportunity and challenge of appreciating and experiencing the creativity of our students, faculty, and staff across the school. Deans are entrusted with providing the vision and leadership needed for their Schools to flourish and advance the University's teaching and research missions. This involves delivering a quality academic program, hiring excellent faculty and staff, overseeing peer-reviewed international research, fundraising, and stewarding the institution's resources—all of which I endeavored to do. I was fortunate to receive the Heroines of Health, global award in 2018 from GE Healthcare, Women in Global Health, at the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

One of my proudest accomplishments is our growth from a team of 66 in 2013 to over 200 colleagues. I co-founded Centres at the School, worked with colleagues to establish systems for accountability and competencies, and fostered a thriving research and teaching culture with innovative methodologies. During my tenure, a Johns Hopkins University publication in 2019 featured BRAC JPGSPH as one of the top Schools in the region. Our graduates remain highly sought-after, with over 95% either continuing their work in Public Health or pursuing prestigious PhD programmes in North America, Australia, and Europe. I have had the privilege of closely collaborating with dedicated and committed colleagues and together, we have contributed to a thriving research and teaching environment that significantly influences policy and practice.

I am delighted to introduce Dr Laura Reichenbach as the new Dean of the School. With her extensive two-decade background in research, management, and leadership in global health, Dr Reichenbach brings a proven track record of formulating, implementing, and publishing high-quality research aimed at enhancing the delivery and adoption of effective health interventions across diverse public health and development issues. Drawing from her field experience in South and Southeast Asia, she has been at the forefront of leading applied research to generate actionable evidence for improved health and development outcomes. I am firmly convinced that under her highly capable leadership, BRAC JPGSPH will attain unprecedented heights, consistently flourishing and making significant contributions at both national and global levels.

Finally, I express my gratitude to our friends, partners, and funders for their continuous support and collaboration over the past two decades.

Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD
Professor, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty
Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)
Numbers that matter

658 Master of Public Health graduates since inception

348 research projects since inception

36 new research grants in 2023

45 research projects ongoing in 2023

310 skills building seminars and workshops since inception

8990 professionals trained through these

872 professionals received training in 2023

1220 Midwifery Education Programme graduates since inception

425 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in last 5 years

64 of these published in 2023

312 current students in midwifery education

403 advocacy engagements with stakeholders since inception

83 of these conducted in 2023

308 current staff members

258 multi-disciplinary research staff

55% female representation among researchers
Accolades

Professor Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Convenor, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), was appointed as Visiting Fellow at the University of Notre Dame.

Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Deputy Dean and Director of the Centre for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN) at the School, was selected as a member of the WHO South East Asia Regional Expert Group on NCD (REG NCD).

Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Mushtaque Chowdhury Chair in Health and Poverty and Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) became Honorary Professor of International Public Health, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), United Kingdom.

Professor Syed Masud Ahmed ranked as the top 12th scientist in Medical and Health Sciences in Bangladesh by the AD Scientific Index.

Professor Kaosar Afsana, Lead, Humanitarian Hub, was selected as the recipient of the Open Access Publication Award in the Faculty category by BRAC University in recognition of the highest number of open access article citations.
# Leadership at the School

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Reichenbach</td>
<td>Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (SISU)</td>
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<td>Syed Masud Ahmed</td>
<td>Professor and Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&amp;UHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaosar Afsana</td>
<td>Professor and Lead, Humanitarian Hub</td>
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<td>Zahidul Quayyum</td>
<td>Professor and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Md. Tanvir Hasan</td>
<td>Associate Professor and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ataur Rahman</td>
<td>Director, Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD)</td>
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# Research Strategy Team

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<tr>
<td>Malay Kanti Mridha</td>
<td>Professor, Deputy Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)</td>
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<td>Md. Tanvir Hasan</td>
<td>Associate Professor and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrittika Barua</td>
<td>Assistant Professor &amp; Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farzana Misha</td>
<td>Assistant Professor and Lead, Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachera Aktar</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nahitun Naher</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&amp;UHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atiya Rahman</td>
<td>Assistant Scientist, Humanitarian Hub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riaz Hossain Khan</td>
<td>Assistant Scientist, The Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farzana Quddus</td>
<td>Grants and Data Repository Manager</td>
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Hear from the staff

**Md Sohel Rana**  
Manager, Administration

My journey at the School began in 2009, and it has been over 14 years of learning and growth. Throughout my time here, I have had the privilege of working under the guidance of various senior management teams, and witnessing many transitions. I am grateful to have thrived and evolved within the nurturing environment provided by this School.

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**Shyama Sultana**  
Manager, Human Resources

I joined the School as the Head of the Human Resources Department in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the relatively short duration, the experience has been immensely impactful for my personal and professional development. The collaborative work environment at the School has been truly inspiring, and has made this journey incredibly fulfilling.

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**Nazia Zebin**  
Communications Manager

Being a part of the School for nearly two years has been an enriching experience for me. The inclusive work culture nurtures creativity and collaboration which my team and I enjoy. I have had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of individuals who bring unique perspectives to the table, leading to amazing communication outcomes.

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**Md. Abdur Rouf Sarker**  
Technical Lead, IT

Spending twelve years at the School has been a rewarding experience. Working with public health experts as an IT professional is incredibly challenging, but I have learnt a lot from this experience and have put my skills to use in the real world. Working with the stakeholders and the leadership at the School has been a privilege.

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BRAC JPGSPH has been a guiding light, providing many opportunities for growth and learning. Through everyone’s support, we’ve gained invaluable experiences and found a sense of belonging. Really grateful for the acceptance and love. Proud to be a part of this remarkable journey.

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From the left: Md. Khorshed Alam, Shah Ali, Mansura Akter, Md. Nurul Islam Akash, Mokles Miah and Afsar Ahmed representing the support team at the School
Festivities around the year

BRAC JPGSPH places a strong emphasis on cultural celebrations and internal events as an integral part of its work culture. These events play a crucial role in fostering unity and cultural richness within the School.
With heavy hearts that we remember and honour the lives of our beloved colleagues who passed away last year. They will be profoundly missed but never forgotten.

In loving memory

Golam Enamul Hasib Chowdhury
Deputy Director, MPH, and Government Liaison
31 May 1975 - 3 October 2023

Dr Golam Enamul Hasib Chowdhury, Deputy Director, MPH, and Government Liaison at the School, had a deep passion for academia and a commitment to public health. His journey with us started in 2008 when he made significant contributions through his involvement in research and teaching until 2016. He rejoined the School in 2022 and continued his journey with us.

His academic and professional achievements were remarkable, but what truly set him apart was his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the broader public health community. Dr Hasib’s legacy is etched into the very fabric of our School, and his influence extends to the lives of those fortunate enough to have known him.

Al-Amin
Cleaning Staff
25 August 1994 - 22 August 2023

Al-Amin was a dedicated and valued individual who became an integral part of our community. His journey with us began in July of 2021. Al-Amin’s unwavering commitment to his responsibilities continued until his passing in August 2023. Al-Amin was more than just diligent in his duties—he was a beacon of responsibility, consistently delivering his services with a sense of integrity that left a lasting impression on everyone around him.

In remembering Al-Amin, we not only celebrate his dedicated service but also the human touch he brought to his role and the connections he formed with those he worked alongside.
The Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme offers transformative public health learning to develop next-generation public health leaders for emerging critical public health challenges. The uniqueness of the one year full-time international programme is its experiential community immersive teaching through rigorous urban and rural fieldwork.

Overview

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme offers transformative public health learning to develop next-generation public health leaders for emerging critical public health challenges. The uniqueness of the one year full-time international programme is its experiential community immersive teaching through rigorous urban and rural fieldwork.

658 graduates from 34 countries since inception

36 experiential urban and rural field sites in 13 districts including sites of the Government and BRAC

13 international visiting faculty

98 national faculty, practitioners, and facilitators

24 academic partners

Master of Public Health
Hear from the faculty

Alayne Adams  
Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH  
Associate Professor, McGill University

What’s exceptional about this programme is the opportunity to go where the issues are, speak to the people who are affected by them, and grapple with those issues head-on.

Richard Cash  
Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH  
Senior Lecturer, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA

Much of what we’ve done here (BRAC JPGSPH) has a strong applied nature. It’s not simply theory. It looks at how interventions and programmes positively impact health situations.

Nusrat Homaira  
Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH  
Senior Lecturer and NHMRC Research Fellow, UNSW  
Respiratory Researcher, Sydney Children’s Hospital

BRAC JPGSPH provides the students a unique opportunity to learn from each other as they come from diverse backgrounds. That’s their strength.

Mohiuddin Ahsanul Kabir Chowdhury  
Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH  
Assistant Professor, Asian University for Women (AUW)

My journey with BRAC JPGSPH started as a student. This place shaped my learning as a public health professional as well as an educator.

Student experience  |  Hear from the students of the 19th cohort

Gloria Mushinda (Zambia)  
Through direct engagement with communities and health systems, I gained a deeper understanding of public health issues, seeing firsthand the social, economic, and cultural factors that influence health outcomes.

Md. Sajid Sultan Haque (Bangladesh)  
BRAC JPGSPH taught me the importance of addressing multiple factors and the need for advocacy. The School’s field-based course curriculum and global classroom allowed me to learn from first-hand experience, fostering a sense of community and developing critical thinking.

Sneha Paul (Bangladesh)  
We visited multiple formal & informal settlements and healthcare facilities throughout the year. This taught us to be more empathetic towards people and their real-life challenges. It strengthened my dedication and commitment to this field as a public health professional.

Mohammed Aref Ali Saeed Ahmed (Yemen)  
Over the course of fifteen modules, I navigated a demanding schedule of learning objectives, guided by a diverse mix of both internal and international faculty. Additionally, the programme provided ample opportunities for immersive field visits to underprivileged communities, offering valuable experiential learning experiences.
Updates from field visits

As part of their experiential learning, the 19th cohort of MPH students participated in eight field trips in the course of their one-year MPH programme.
Tahsin Madani Hossain
Senior Coordinator
Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme

It feels incredible to be part of an institution where teaching and learning goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. The last few years at the School have given me multiple opportunities to work with students of diverse backgrounds, and to learn from colleagues of different institutions about their remarkable work in public health. It is truly rewarding to see that I’m able to play a small part in shaping the next generation of leaders who will strive to make their community better.

Hear from the team

Graduation ceremony of the 19th batch where celebrations were held for the graduating students from 8 countries

At the Student Research Day, students showcased their individual Summative Learning Project (SLP) posters and delivered presentations on their projects’ findings

The School has been awarded multiple prestigious grants for its continued contribution to public health.

The School is one of the 7 global academic institutions selected by Training in Tropical Diseases Research (TDR) Fellowship.

86 students from our MPH programme have received the scholarship to date.
Outstanding students were honoured with awards in recognition of their remarkable dedication and achievements.

**Allan Rosenfield Award for Best Overall Performance**
- Devjani Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
- Md. Sajid Sultan Haque (Bangladesh)

**W. B. Greenough III Award for Best Dissertation**
- Md. Sajid Sultan Haque (Bangladesh)
- Gloria Mushinda (Zambia)
- Shagufta (Pakistan)

**Richard Cash Award for Best Poster**
- Zumana Hayat Khan (Bangladesh)
- Sneha Paul (Bangladesh)
- Sanjida Tapushi Adiba (Bangladesh)

**Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG Award for Leadership**
- D M Rezoan Kobir (Bangladesh)
- Gloria Mushinda (Zambia)

**Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG Award for Leadership (Honourable Mention)**
- Zumana Hayat Khan (Bangladesh)
- Azzam Ali Mohammed Fare'a (Yemen)
- Mokhtar Ashor (Afghanistan)
- Anish Dhodari (Nepal)
Faculty and Teaching Fellow Awards

Esteemed faculty members were awarded in acknowledgement their unwavering commitment and immense contributions.

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain
Teaching Excellence Award

Timothy Grant Evans
Adjunct Professor
Health Systems Management

Richard Cash
Adjunct Professor & Coordinator
Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases

Steve Luby
Guest Facilitator & Coordinator
Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain
Teaching Excellence Award (Honourable Mention)

Alayne Adams
Adjunct Professor & Coordinator
Qualitative Research Methods

Tahmeed Ahmed
Professor & Coordinator
Public Health Nutrition

Malabika Sarker
Adjunct Professor & Coordinator
Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Health Programmes

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain
Teaching Fellow Award

Farzana Sehrin
Health Economics & Health Care Financing

Suborna Sultana
Biostatistics

Priom Saha
Biostatistics

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain
Teaching Fellow Award (Honourable Mention)

Muhammad Riaz Hossain
Health Systems Management

Baby Naznin
Health Economics & Health Care Financing

Md Sajib Rana
Anthropological Approaches to Public Health
Since 2012, the Midwifery Education Programme (MEP) has been developing competent and committed midwives. Its 3-year diploma in midwifery aims to reduce maternal-neonatal mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh.

**Overview**

Since 2012, the Midwifery Education Programme (MEP) has been developing competent and committed midwives. Its 3-year diploma in midwifery aims to reduce maternal-neonatal mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>312</th>
<th>1580</th>
<th>1220</th>
<th>1028</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>current students</td>
<td>students enrolled</td>
<td>students graduated (97%)</td>
<td>licensed (99%)</td>
<td>employed (94%)</td>
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**Selected updates**

**MEP launched a policy brief on the progress and current scenario of midwifery in Bangladesh**

The policy brief titled “Transitioning to Midwifery Models of Care: Advancement Made in Bangladesh” was assigned by WHO SEARO, under the leadership support of the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), Government of Bangladesh.

**MEP published a research paper titled 'Understanding the Work Environment and Use of Midwifery Skills: A Study on Midwives' on the occasion of International Safe Motherhood Day 2023**

The study reported that the number of safe and normal deliveries will rise and the risk of maternal and newborn deaths will decrease if midwives are made available in every corner of the country.

**MEP organised a Faculty Development Training (FDT) with 42 midwifery teachers from 20 private midwifery institutes**

The training focused on updating midwifery education, curriculum, exam procedures, post-partum management, eclampsia awareness, neonatal resuscitation, respectful maternity care, mental health first aid, and orientation on Bangladesh midwifery society.

**UNFPA Midwifery Team visited the Midwife Led Care Centre in Dhaka**

The team expressed admiration for MEP’s proactive initiatives. They met with student leaders and faculty members, explored facilities, and conducted a question-and-answer session, providing thoughtful and informative responses to students’ inquiries.
Student experience

Rumi Akter, 8th batch

We are taught through lectures, group work, and presentations. Teachers show relevant video clips and documentaries to make it easier for us to understand any topic. They put a lot of emphasis on developing our practical skills as well. We have a dedicated skills lab for us to practice and develop our skills.

Arju Akter, 9th batch

We all come from different backgrounds and different districts of the country. The hostel life was challenging in the beginning. But when classes started, we found the education system was designed in a way that best supports our learning as well as helps us cope with the new environment.

Shawsoto Sarker, 10th batch

At first I was scared of studying in the English version. But once the programme started, my English improved a lot. Our teachers are very friendly and caring, too. They always motivate us and push us to do better every day. I feel like I found a home away from home. I want to become a great midwife and also go for higher studies and become a lecturer someday.
Leading the Midwifery Education Programme at the School has been a gratifying experience. Together, as a team, we have excelled in midwifery education by emphasising leadership development, community engagement, positive mindset cultivation, and mental health well-being. Over a decade, we have created an impact in our student's life by fostering women's empowerment, nurturing successful entrepreneurs, grooming future leaders, and instigating transformative change in generations to come.

Sharmina Rahman
Head, Midwifery Education Programme (MEP)
In our pursuit of excellence in public health, BRAC JPGSPH engages in robust training initiatives. At the heart of our training endeavors stands the Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD), our distinguished international training hub designed to empower health professionals globally, regionally, and nationally.

Complementing CPSD’s dedicated efforts, the School integrates training components seamlessly across our diverse portfolio of research projects. From practitioners to policymakers, our holistic training programmes cater to a broad spectrum of public health stakeholders, reinforcing our commitment to fostering expertise and knowledge dissemination across the field.

**Overview**

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**310** skills building seminars and workshops since inception

**8990** professionals trained since inception

**39** training sessions conducted in 2023

**872** professionals trained in 2023
Selected updates

- Short course on Qualitative Data Analysis using NVivo 12 Pro
- Short course on Health Economics and Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Policies
- Short course on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
- Short course on Basic Qualitative Research Methodology
- Training session to educate primary health care providers on using simple apps
- Five-day regional writing workshop in collaboration with HERD Int’l, Nepal, as capacity strengthening under CHORUS project
- Interactive student workshops and poster presentations with 240+ students from 6 Universities to raise awareness on the rights of structurally silenced women
- Training on the fundamental understanding of SurveyCTO
Research

Overview

The School's broad global and national collaborations and networks enable multi-disciplinary research teams to oversee operations at the 5 Research Centres and 4 Research Hubs. These entities delve into various fields encompassing urban and rural health, socioeconomic development, poverty, marginalised communities (e.g., refugees, slum dwellers, ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, adolescents), infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, gender equity and rights, maternal and child health, urban equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, digital health, violence against women and children, human rights, health systems and workforce, antimicrobial resistance, health equity, healthcare financing, and financial inclusion and well-being across urban and rural landscapes within the country.

- 340 research projects since inception
- 425 peer-reviewed articles published in international journals since 2017
- 200 international research partners in the last 5 years
- 60 peer-reviewed publications on average per year
- 45 research projects in 2023
The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)
Established in 2008, the Centre promotes a broader understanding of Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh and the region through research, advocacy, and capacity-building activities. It generates and translates knowledge into advocacy-based action for social and structural changes.

The Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)
Established in 2012, the Centre generates evidence to inform key stakeholders on necessary health system interventions or modifying existing interventions. Research areas include universal health coverage, equity, and social determinants of health, Human Resources for Health (HRH), pharmaceutical R&D.

The Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)
Established in 2013, the Centre addresses existing challenges of the urban health system to ensure equity for the urban poor. Research areas include climate change, environment, migration, strengthening of health systems, urban health governance, innovations in service delivery models, developing strategies for building equitable healthy cities.

The Centre of Excellence for the Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)
Established in 2016, the Centre aims to link research and practice to accelerate the implementation and scale-up of health policies, programmes, and practices by emphasising partnerships between implementors, researchers, and stakeholders. Research areas include maternal, neonatal, child health, disability, health systems, vaccination, climate change, migration.

The Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)
Established in 2017, the Centre develops research, training, guidelines, policies, partnerships, and networks to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and malnutrition in Bangladesh and the Global South. Research areas include NCDs, malnutrition, practices in clinical and population settings, etc.
### Research and Policy Hubs

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<tr>
<th>Hub for Qualitative Inquiry (Qualinq)</th>
<th>Hub for Evidence in Public Health Policy and Practice (HEPP)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Established in 2023, the Hub aims to strengthen the capacity of junior and mid-level researchers and development practitioners in qualitative research.</td>
<td>Established in 2023, the Hub engages in capacity building in accessing, acquiring, and making available public health practice and policy evidence.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Humanitarian Research Hub</th>
<th>Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH)</th>
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<td>Established in 2021, the Humanitarian Hub carries forward the humanitarian research that started at the School in 2018. The Hub conducts research in collaboration with the Centres of Excellence on the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals and host populations to comprehend the gaps in public health service delivery and to identify challenges to improve their health and well-being.</td>
<td>Established in 2023, the Hub offers teaching, programme design, and research efforts involving health, education, and the economy of climate change.</td>
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### Diverse research methodologies at the school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation research</th>
<th>Ethnographic case studies</th>
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<td>Qualitative research</td>
<td>Economic evaluations</td>
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<td>Quantitative research</td>
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<td>Programme evaluations</td>
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**Community-based participatory research**

- Randomised control trials
- Deliberative interviews
- Digital ethnography
- Surveillance
- Photo and voice narratives
- Participatory action research
- Process evaluations
- Geospatial experimental method
- Visual diaries
Selected research projects


CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS • DONOR: FCDO, UK

Focused on assessing the validity and reliability of digital health platforms for SRHR among 18–35-year-olds, this project emphasises transparency and accountability within existing and future service providers to establish sustainable digital health systems. With the COVID-19 pandemic accelerating digital healthcare services in Bangladesh, the project aims to address gaps in user protection; particularly for marginalised communities. Utilising a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach, including digital ethnography, the research seeks to identify challenges, enhance sustainability, and promote transparency and accountability in digital health services, with actionable strategies proposed for advancement.

Our Voices Our Future

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS • DONOR: CREA

Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF is, a consortium led by the global South, including partners like CREA, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), with BRAC JPGSPH collaborating as a national-level partner. The consortium aims to amplify the voices of structurally silenced women in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Sudan, and Uganda.

In 2023, the project team conducted multiple workshops on the rights of structurally silenced women to enable younger generations to understand the systemic barriers faced by women. The workshops were conducted in 6 public universities where over 240 students participated.

The OVOF team also collaborated with BRAC JPGSPH to mark the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. They showcased artwork from the Art Fellowship Programme, a joint initiative by the School and Oroddho Foundation.

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

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH • DONOR: FCDO, UK

CHORUS is a multi-country research programme consortium being implemented in 4 countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, Nigeria) that aims to strengthen urban health systems by addressing practical challenges of delivering equitable health services.

In 2023, CHORUS, in collaboration with ARISE Consortia, hosted a global webinar on “Intersectional and Gendered Approach to Health in Informal Settlements”, with 15 institutions from 8 countries. The School is a proud partner in both consortia.

The project team also hosted workshops to sensitize journalists on three major urban health issues – ideal modality for urban primary health care provision, cost-effective interventions for preventing non-communicable diseases, and identifying poor in small urban areas; which will contribute to meaningful reporting on these urban health problems in electronic and print media, influencing policy decisions.
Facilitators and Barriers of Management of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Bangladesh: An Implementation Research Through Gender Lens

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP • DONOR: WHO-TDR

Investigating the management of MDR-TB in Bangladesh, this study aims to uncover the factors facilitating or hindering effective treatment delivery. Exploring how gender interacts with other social variables within the context of MDR-TB, the research seeks to illuminate gender-specific experiences shaped by contextual and structural determinants.

The research team completed field activities for data collection, including a household survey with 462 MDR-TB patients, and conducted over 180 qualitative interviews (IDI, KII, FGDs) with diverse respondent groups such as patients, caregivers, health service providers, and policymakers.

Clinical Impact and Economic Features of a Community Health Worker-led Low-Sodium Salt Intervention to Reduce Blood Pressure at the Population Level in Rural Bangladesh: A Cluster-Randomized Trial

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE SCIENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SCALE-UP • DONOR: LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a low-sodium salt substitute (LSSS) in reducing blood pressure among adults aged 18 years and older in rural Bangladesh. Comparing various intervention delivery methods, the research seeks to identify the most effective approach for providing low-sodium salt. Additionally, the study assesses the willingness-to-pay of the target population for LSSS, contributing valuable insights to public health interventions.

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

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE • DONOR: EUROPEAN COMMISSION

This project aims to establish an open-access platform for SoNAR-Global activities, fostering widespread dissemination. It involves adapting, testing, and assessing vulnerability assessment tools and engagement models to enhance collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the project will develop, pilot, and evaluate training curricula for social scientists in infectious threat preparedness and response, bridging social science knowledge gaps among non-social science professionals.
Feasibility of Implementing Trauma Registry and Trauma Systems Improvement Program in Four District Hospitals of Bangladesh with High Road Traffic Injury (RTI) Burden

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE  •  DONOR: THE WORLD BANK

This project aims to assess the feasibility of implementing a trauma registry and trauma system improvement program (TSIP) in 4 high road traffic injury burden districts. It includes identifying and utilising reliable audit filters to monitor TSIP progress effectively. By exploring implementation strategies, the project seeks to enhance trauma care systems, ultimately improving outcomes for individuals affected by road traffic injuries.

Improving Food and Nutrition Security by Enhancing Women's Empowerment

HUMANITARIAN HUB  •  DONOR: DUTCH RESEARCH COUNCIL AND UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

This project aims to develop a conceptual framework delineating the pathways linking various forms of women's empowerment to enhanced household nutrition outcomes. It also seeks to explore psychological and social constraints, such as aspirations and agency, as potential moderators of women's empowerment impacts. By informing policymakers and practitioners about key study findings, the project aims to contribute to informed decision-making and the implementation of effective strategies to improve nutrition outcomes.

Menstrual Regulation, Abortion, and Post-Abortion Care among the Rohingyas in Bangladesh

HUMANITARIAN HUB  •  DONOR: GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE (GI)

This study aims to examine the availability of maternal and reproductive health services, including MR, abortion, and PAC, within Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps. It seeks to understand the knowledge and utilisation of these services among ever-married community members, exploring the influence of preferences, stigma, and health literacy on abortion-related behaviours. Additionally, the research aims to contextualise these experiences by assessing the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of community leaders and men regarding the management of unintended pregnancies.

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

CENTRE FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND NUTRITION  •  DONOR: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE RESEARCH (NIHR), UK AND WELLCOME TRUST, UK

This initiative focused on strengthening Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) surveillance. Utilising standardised methods, it conducted structured assessments on a diverse sample of individuals aged 18 and above in surveillance sites. Biological samples were systematically collected for epidemiological research, and a longitudinal follow-up enabled the identification of fatal and non-fatal NCD outcomes, aiding in quantifying the NCD relationship and identifying disease biomarkers. The crucial data generated was disseminated to stakeholders, informing resource allocation decisions and influencing health system priorities.
Objectives of the study:

• Identify relevant stakeholders to the prevention and control of NCDs at sub-district level

• Define the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders

• Develop an Upazila-specific intervention model for NCD prevention and control

• Implement the Upazila-specific model and carry out a process documentation

• Evaluate the Upazila-specific model with regard to NCD specific outcomes

Study site:
Birganj Upazila, Dinajpur, Bangladesh

RESEARCH IN FOCUS
Non-Communicable Diseases

The Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN) at the School aims to improve health outcomes and quality of life for individuals affected by NCDs through partnerships with the Government, healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities.

Last year, researchers at the School conducted a study on the development and testing of an upazila-specific model of ‘Whole-of-Government’, and ‘Whole-of-Society’ approaches for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in a sub-district of Bangladesh. An overall summary of the study is illustrated below.

![Image](image.png)

Fig: Prevalence of major NCDs and risk factors of NCDs among adults aged 40+
In recent years, climate change has become one of the most important areas of public health. In order to address this impending public health issue, the School established the Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH) in January 2023.

Bangladesh is grappling with climate change and public health risks due to rising sea levels, cyclones, and weather changes. The School has been conducting research projects to understand these vulnerabilities, develop adaptive measures, and develop sustainable strategies to protect public health and ensure community resilience.

At the COP28 held in Dubai, UAE last year, the School hosted a session titled “Advancing Climate-Adaptive Health Systems in South Asia” at the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub Pavilion. Professor Kaosar Afsana moderated the panel and Assistant Professor Farzana Misha attended as a panellist.

The Connecting Climate Minds project is conducted by a global team; led by the School in Central and South Asia, and coordinated globally by Climate Cares at Imperial College London. The project is working to foster connections between people all over the world to come together to understand and respond to the deep interconnections between climate change and mental health. Funded by Wellcome Trust, Connecting Climate Minds brings together expertise across research, policy, design, and lived experience from across the globe.

Two regional dialogues for Connecting Climate Minds in Central and Southern Asia were held in 2023, which was attended by 120+ experts, lived experience individuals, and youth ambassadors from 14 countries. The dialogue included interactive sessions on the varied definitions and understandings of important concepts such as climate vulnerability and mental health across the Central and South Asian region.
Climate Adaptation and Climate-Driven Migration in South Asia

The research is using an interdisciplinary research team to model, map, and develop interventions for climate change adaptation. Using a landscape analysis, the research looks to map the latest research and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in Bangladesh. The Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability at Harvard University is a research partner and the study is funded by The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute at Harvard University.

In November 2023, Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid attended an elaborated on climate change adaptation in Bangladesh as a panellist in a workshop on ‘Adapting to Climate Change in South Asia and West Africa’ in Harvard University, USA. The conversations focused on where impacts are expected, local vulnerabilities and risks in these regions. Climate change responses concerning different stakeholders, regional contexts, and preparation and planning capacities at local, regional, and international levels were discussed.

Consultation on communities of practice for transdisciplinary research and action in climate change and health in Asia (CoP)

The mixed-method study was conducted with the primary objective of understanding how relevant stakeholders across research, policy, implementation, affected communities, and supporting organizations in Asia can be better supported to shape, undertake, and use transdisciplinary research, and advance action in climate and health (i.e., barriers and opportunities). The study was funded by Wellcome Trust with Quicksand Design Studio PVT Limited, India as the project partner and Empatika in Indonesia, Curiosity Design Research in the Philippines, and Beyond Group in Lebanon and Jordan as part of the consortium of partners.

In March 2023, Dean Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor Farzana Misha, and Research Fellow Sameen Nasar were invited to the international conference on climate change by the Mittal Institute at Harvard University. The project was launched during this conference.

Climate change, migration and health systems resilience in Haiti and Bangladesh (CLIMHB)

The mixed-method study was conducted to analyse the capacities and vulnerabilities of health systems in Haiti and Bangladesh, through the lens of climate change-induced migration flows. The study funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR), was conducted in partnership with CEPED – IRD.
Field experience from researchers

While working on different research methodologies, conducting review work (especially scoping review) equipped me with a unique skill set imperative to ensuring the accuracy and robustness of studies, thereby supporting evidence-based decision-making and effective public health interventions.

Obaida Karim, Senior Research Associate

In my diverse research journey, I’ve learned that genuine empathy is the cornerstone of impactful work. Engaging with diverse backgrounds has broadened my perspective, while overcoming challenges has fueled my resilience. I’ve come to understand that transparent data collection is paramount for achieving meaningful outcomes.

Jony Barnard Mackfield, Senior Field Coordinator

Engaging with diverse community members has honed my research skills through real-world experiences in remote and challenging environments, like the Haor area in Sunamganj district, where I’ve traversed via motorbikes, boats, and on foot. Field implementation of research projects offers a unique privilege to explore truths from varied perspectives, from high-ranking officials to marginalized groups like day labourers, sex workers, and persons with disabilities.

Zarin Tasnim, Senior Research Associate

I am passionate about exploring issues affecting marginalised populations. My travels to remote areas with limited communication and infrastructure have transformed my compassion into actionable initiatives. Through field visits, I’ve gained a profound understanding of public health. Working with diverse communities has empowered me, shaping me into an independent woman ready to make a meaningful impact.

Jannatul Sumrina Hridhi, Research Associate

My experience at BRAC JPGSPH has been transformative, providing me with the opportunity to engage directly with the Rohingya community and deepen my understanding of their struggles related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Despite the inherent challenges of gathering sensitive SRHR data, each obstacle strengthens my resolve to enhance this sector and advocate tirelessly for marginalized populations.

Pragna Paramita Mondal, Research Associate

During my tenure, I’ve intimately observed the hurdles confronted by underprivileged children during their early developmental years, particularly in areas of social and emotional learning, and mental well-being. I firmly advocate for the implementation of evidence-based interventions within the education system to enhance the social, mental, and emotional resilience of these vulnerable children.

Md. Reza-E Rabbi, Senior Research Assistant
Research internship highlights

At BRAC JPGSPH, I’m delving into unresolved public health issues through research. Their community-centred approach amplifies marginalised voices, shaping healthcare policies in Bangladesh. My internship, guided by Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid and supportive colleagues, provides invaluable insights into obstetric fistula patients’ treatment-seeking behaviour. This experience is pivotal for understanding marginalised communities and addressing prevalent challenges. Grateful for this opportunity at BRAC JPGSPH.

Kanako Kon
Student, Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health

My internship at the School was transformative, bridging clinical practice with public health impact. Delving into qualitative and quantitative research, I gained invaluable insights into public nutrition, MIYCN specifically. Fieldwork expeditions honed practical skills, while exposure to industry-standard applications enhanced data analysis proficiency. This experience, beyond immediate learning, instilled core principles of public health research, setting the stage for my current role as a Senior Research Assistant, a testament to its transformative power.

Abdullah Asif
MBBS, Senior Research Assistant

My internship at BRAC JPGSPH exceeded expectations. Recommended by a friend at Johns Hopkins, it provided invaluable research experience and exposure to digital health. This international stint not only enriched my MSPH journey but also ignited a passion for global health challenges. Collaborating with exceptional individuals, I gained insights that will shape my future endeavours and reinforce my commitment to making a difference on the international stage.

Aushmita Akbar
MSPH Candidate at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
Factors affecting motivation of close-to-community sexual and reproductive health workers in low-income urban settlements in Bangladesh: A qualitative study

Authors: Ilias Mahmud, Sumona Siddiqua, Irin Akhter, Malabika Sarker, Sally Theobald, Sabina Faiz Rashid
Published in PLOS One

The wellbeing of garment workers in Bangladesh during COVID-19 - does gender matter?

Authors: Farida Chowdhury Khan, Farzana Misha, Nadine Murshid, Atonu Rabbani and Bakhtear Talukdar
Published in International Journal of Gender Studies in Developing Societies

Changing dimensions in immunization: Implementation research on the E-tracker intervention for improving vaccination of children in Dhaka and Moulvibazar, Bangladesh

Authors: Humayra Anwar, Saima Mehjabeen, Avijit Saha, Md. Tanvir Hossen, Md. Monjurul Islam Fuad, Zahid Hasan, Md Jahid Hossen Shahed, Malabika Sarker
Published in Population Medicine

A qualitative exploration of challenges in childhood TB patients identification and diagnosis in Bangladesh

Authors: Sharmin Akter Shitol, Avijit Saha, Mrittika Barua, Kazi Md Saleheen Towhid, Akramul Islam, Malabika Sarker
Published in Helion

Smokeless and combustible tobacco use among 148,944 South Asian adults: a cross-sectional study of South Asia Biobank

Authors: Wubin Xie, Malay Kanti Mridha, Anaya Gupta, Dian Kusuma, Awais Muhammad Butt, Mehedi Hasan, Soren Brage, Marie Loh, Khadija Irfan Khawaja, Rajendra Pradeepa, Vinita Jha, Anuradhani Kasturiratne, Prasad Katulanda, Ranjit Mohan Anjana, John C Chambers
Published in BMC Public Health

Health sector corruption in the times of COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh: Newspapers as mirrors of society

Authors: Mahruba Khanam, Noshin Sayiara Shuchi, Raihana S. Kamal, Syed Masud Ahmed
Published in Helion

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices and deworming improve nutritional status and anemia of unmarried adolescent girls in rural Bangladesh

Authors: Saira Parveen Jolly, Tridib Roy Chowdhury, Tanbi Tanaya Sarker, Kaosar Afsana
Published in Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition

Assessing implementation outcomes for launching balanced energy protein supplementation: A formative study in rural Bangladesh

Published in Maternal & Child Nutrition

Fatty acid profile emphasizing trans-fatty acids in commercially available soybean and palm oils and its probable intake in Bangladesh

Authors: Sneha Sarwar, Nazma Shaheen, Md. Musharraf Ashraf, Nisarga Bahar, Fahmida Akter, Md Mokbul Hossain, Malay Kanti Mridha, Mohammad Abu Monsur Kajal, Sk. Shahriar Bin Rasul, Rudaba Khondker, Ashek Mahfuz, Mduduzi NN Mbuya, Abu Ahmed Shamim
Published in Food Chemistry Advances

Rising pharmaceutical innovation in the Global South: a landscape study

Authors: Marcela Vievea, Tatiana Andia, Obaida Karim, Sanjida Ahmed Srishti, Sebastian Alfonso Pineda, Adrian Alonso Ruiz, Kaitlin Large, Yiqi Liu, Suerie Moon, Nahitun Naher, Azizah Siddiqui, Syed Masud Ahmed
Published in Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice
Selected conference abstracts

Assessment of the chemical stability of clay materials with different reactive surface areas under varying pH environments: A numerical modeling approach
Authors: Riaz Hossain Khan
Accepted: 16 December 2023 in American Geophysical Union

Co-producing and Co-creating Knowledge on Ambient Lighting, Air and Noise Pollution, Gendered Accessibility and Transport for an Equitable Healthy Dhaka City
Authors: Sabrina Mustabin Jaigirdar, Syeda Tahmina Ahmed, Khadiza Tul Kobra Nahin, Riaz Hossain Khan, Frans Berkhout, Zahidul Quayyum
Accepted: 6 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Community and stakeholders' perceptions about poor ambient lighting in Dhaka City
Authors: Syeda Tahmina Ahmed, Anisur Rahman Bayazid, Rumpa Akter, Riaz Hossain Khan, Zahidul Quayyum, Judith Irene Rodriguez, Gary Adamkiewicz
Accepted: 6 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Natural and anthropogenic effects on the occurrence of high air pollution levels in Dhaka and neighboring cities and its health consequences
Authors: Riaz Hossain Khan, Zahidul Quayyum
Accepted: 21 November 2023 in European Congress on Global Health (ECTMIH2023)

Mapping Urban Waterlogging Zones using HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS Modeling: A Case Study of Dhaka City
Authors: Khadiza Tul Kobra Nahin
Accepted: 9 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Birth and death registration: Qualitative exploration of barriers and gender differences in selected locations in Bangladesh
Accepted: 26 April 2023 in 17th World Congress on Public Health Supplement 2023
DOI: https://doi.org/10.18332/popmed/163655

How prepared are we to fight the future pandemics: A qualitative exploration of Bangladesh’s Health Sector readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic and recommended best practices
Authors: Protyasha Ghosh, Shahrear Alam, Muhammad Abdul Mannan, Jahedul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Avijit Saha, Mrittika Barua
Accepted: 27 December 2024 in 9th International Public Health Conference 2023 (Hybrid)
DOI: 10.18332/popmed/163993

A qualitative exploration of challenges in childhood TB patients identification and diagnosis in Bangladesh
Authors: Malabika Sarker, Sharmin Shitol, Avijit Saha, Mrittika Barua, Kazi Towhid, Akramul Islam
Accepted: 26 April 2024 in The World Congress on Public Health (WCPH) 2023
DOI: 10.18332/popmed/163993

Community and stakeholders’ perceptions about poor ambient lighting in Dhaka City
Authors: Syeda Tahmina Ahmed
Accepted: 9 November 2023 in 19th International Conference on Urban Health

Co-producing and co-creating knowledge on ambient lighting, air and noise pollution, gendered accessibility and transport for an equitable healthy Dhaka city
Authors: Sabrina Mustabin Jaigirdar et al.
Accepted: 22 November 2023 in European Congress on Global Health (ECTMIH2023)
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/tmi.13931
The School is committed to making a lasting impact on public health practices at national, regional, and global levels through rigorous research and evidence generation and advocating towards transforming policies and practices to improve the well-being of all individuals. We actively use our platform to engage in advocacy by sharing our findings in conferences, seminars, webinars, workshops, exhibitions, media engagement, and dissemination.

Overview

The School is committed to making a lasting impact on public health practices at national, regional, and global levels through rigorous research and evidence generation and advocating towards transforming policies and practices to improve the well-being of all individuals. We actively use our platform to engage in advocacy by sharing our findings in conferences, seminars, webinars, workshops, exhibitions, media engagement, and dissemination.
Selected updates

Regional Symposium & Strategic Summit on Population Health Informatics with 115+ public health experts from 7 countries and launching of a regional Hub on population health Informatics in South and Southeast Asia
*Hosted by the School In collaboration with the City University of New York*

Public engagement to raise awareness on waterlogging and waste management in Dhaka city with students and teachers from 9 secondary schools
*Under Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities global project*

Evidence shared on Community health workers’ role in primary health care and health systems in Bangladesh
*In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO*

Findings shared from a feasibility study done on Improving Trauma Care in 4 districts of Bangladesh
*In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Bank*

Evidence generated through study on strengthening surveillance of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their risk factors, which established a nationwide NCD surveillance system
*In alignment with Government policy*

Evidence shared on effective digital health platform for SRHR services
*Under COVID-19 Learning, Evidence, and Research (CLEAR) programme*
Understanding the nature of anti-feminist backlash in digital spaces and developing counter-strategies

Countering Backlash project in collaboration with BRAC Institute of Governance and Development

Workshop with Health Reporters Forum of Bangladesh on urban health issues to foster meaningful health reporting

Under the CHORUS global project

Engaging young men in thinking about problems of both men and women in their communities

Under the Countering Backlash project in collaboration with Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity (ARISE) consortium

Youth’s perspective on rights of structurally silenced women, showcasing works of 10 young artists in partnership with Oroddho Foundation

Under Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF) project with CREA

Artwork from Subrina Islam, young artist featured through exhibition under Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF) project
In 2023, the School held 7 engaging webinars to foster knowledge and raise awareness on topics including the dengue outbreak, climate change, air and noise quality in Dhaka, community health workers’ mental health, financial protection in health, public health response in humanitarian settings and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Rohingya camps. The webinars were telecasted live on Facebook with global and national attendees.

Selected conference participation
Researchers at the School actively participate in global and national conferences, sharing research findings and fostering collaboration in diverse academic arenas. Our researchers attended the following conferences in 2023.

- Devex @ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) | New York, USA
- International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) 2023 | Atlanta, USA
- International Conference on Climate Change | Mittal Institute at Harvard University | New Delhi, India
- Asian Congress on Nutrition | Chengdu, China
- 13th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) | Utrecht, Netherlands
- British Society for Population Studies (BSPS) Conference 2023 | Keele University, Newcastle, UK
- 18th International Congress of Twin Studies | Budapest, Hungary
- Women Deliver conference | Kigali, Rwanda
- 17th World Congress on Public Health | Rome, Italy
- International Congress of Nutrition | Tokyo, Japan
- Gender and South Asia Research Network meeting | Liverpool, UK
- International Conference on Anti-Feminist Backlash in the Global South | Beirut, Lebanon
- 33rd ICM Triennial Congress 2023 | Bali, Indonesia
- Workshop on Adapting to Climate Change in South Asia and West Africa | Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
- Global BRAC Climate Workshop | Gazipur, Bangladesh
- Roundtable discussion on 50 years of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Bangladesh organised by Prothom Alo | Dhaka Bangladesh
- 9th International Public Health Conference 2023 | Dhaka, Bangladesh
Established in 2006, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) is a multi-stakeholder civil society advocacy and monitoring network dedicated to improving the health system in Bangladesh through critical reviews of policies and programmes and recommendations of appropriate actions for change. BRAC JPGSPH has been serving as BHW’s secretariat since its inception.

Selected updates

Book launch: 50 Years of Bangladesh: Advances in Health, showcasing Bangladesh’s progress in the health sector

Global learning collaborative for health system resilience Bangladesh chapter launch with BRAC JPGSPH and BHW as co-drivers

Roundtable discussion in collaboration with Prothom Alo on future possibilities in the health sector

Plenary Session on accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh as part of an international health economics conference

Life skill training for Health Rights Youth Forum by District Health Rights Forum in 8 districts of Bangladesh

Coordination meeting held on quality improvement of Community Clinic services with representatives of the local government, community clinics, and health rights forums
BRAC JPGSPH officially started its journey in 2004. This year marks the 20th year of the School’s excellence in public health education and research. The School has continually strived for academic and research excellence since its inception. Over the past two decades, the School has played a pivotal role in shaping public health policies and initiatives. It has fostered a culture of collaboration and community engagement.

Follow us on social media and use #20YearsOfBRACJPGSPH to connect with the special celebrations of this exciting milestone.
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