

## In the News

### *Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week 2025: Promoting Awareness, Support, and Best Practices*



BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University, celebrated World Breastfeeding Week 2025 by organising a campaign with midwifery students to raise awareness and promote the importance of breastfeeding for both mother and baby. Our student midwives showcased posters on a mother's right to breastfeed with dignity, support and protection, techniques for effective and comfortable breastfeeding, and practical solutions to support mothers through common challenges.

### *Insights generated to inform national efforts on reframing anti-microbial resistance (AMR) as a social and development challenge*



The Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) at BRAC JPGSPH successfully conducted four workshops titled “Just Transition to Mitigate Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)” in July 2025 in Sundarganj, Gaibandha, under the British Academy–funded JT4AMR initiative. The workshops engaged 31 participants across four diverse cohorts, including informal healthcare providers, drug retailers, agriculture and poultry workers, teachers, religious leaders and community representatives. Participants explored the social, behavioural and structural drivers of antibiotic misuse and co-developed equity-focused strategies to ensure a just transition in AMR mitigation. The insights generated will inform national efforts to reframe AMR as a social and development challenge and strengthen community-centred approaches to antibiotic stewardship in Bangladesh.

## ***ACCESS4ALL faculties convene in Maastricht to advance climate education and collaborative research***



Faculty members from the ACCESS4ALL Learning Hub, representing BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Independent University, Bangladesh, and Heidelberg University, convened at the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, in September 2025. Team members presented their online MOOC course models, received feedback and engaged in structured critiques with institutional partners. These sessions led to actionable suggestions for MOOC curriculum development, Training of Trainers (ToT) guidelines and community mobilisation strategies. Participants visited the Bugenhagenschule Alsterdorf in Hamburg to observe its Climate School Programme and joined an experimental class with high-school students. The programme continued with discussions on climate research at CLICCS/SICSS to learn more about interdisciplinary climate and social-science research.

## ***Dissemination events organised in Dhaka and Rangpur to share evidence on barriers to and facilitators of female death registration in Bangladesh***



The Humanitarian Hub at BRAC JPGSPH disseminated findings from its study, “Barriers to and Facilitators of Female Death Registration in Bangladesh”, at two key events: a national-level event in Dhaka and a divisional-level event in Rangpur in July 2025. The study was funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with Vital Strategies and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Key barriers identified include a lack of awareness, complex registration systems and a low perceived value of registering female deaths, often linked to property and inheritance issues. Conversely, facilitators include the requirement for death certificates to access loans or allowances, and strong support from local officials. The findings were shared with high-level policymakers in Dhaka and key divisional officials in Rangpur to drive policy action.

# Education Updates

## Master of Public Health (MPH) programme

In July - September 2025, six courses were taught at the MPH programme by our amazing pool of national and international faculty.

### Qualitative Research Methods



**Facilitators:** Alayne Adams, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH; and Mrittika Barua, Adjunct Assistant Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

**About the Module:** Grounded in a “learning by doing” approach, this module guided students through the essentials of qualitative inquiry. It included multi-day fieldwork during which thematic groups designed and conducted a qualitative study.

### Systematic Review



**Facilitators:** Nafisa Lira Huq, Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH; and Rajib Mamun, Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH & Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, Asian University for Women

**About the Module:** This five-day certificate course introduced students to the essential steps involved in conducting a systematic review. Through interactive sessions and hands-on exercises, students formulated review questions, developed protocols and practised building search strategies using PubMed and the PICO framework.

### Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases



**Facilitators:** Stephen Luby, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH; Lucy Becker Professor of Medicine, Stanford University; and Emily Gurley, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH & Distinguished Professor of the Practice, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**About the Module:** This three-week course introduced students to a wide range of viral and bacterial diseases that are prevalent in developing countries. In a field exercise, students worked across thematic areas including antimicrobial use, vaccine hesitancy, the poultry-human interface and basic survey measurements for community assessment.

### Health Economics & Health Care Financing



**Facilitators:** Dr Zahidul Quayyum, Professor, & Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, and Dr Sherin Shaila Mahmud, Associate Scientist, Health Systems and Population Studies Division, icddr,b

**About the Module:** The course introduced key economic principles and their relevance to health policy and systems. Students participated in lectures, group tasks, cost-analysis activities and resource-allocation exercises.

## Public Health Nutrition



**Facilitators:** Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH, & Executive Director, icddr,b

**About the Module:** This course introduced students to the causes of malnutrition and the global situation of child and maternal nutrition. The module combined lectures, hospital-based practical sessions and field activities to help students learn how to assess the nutritional status of children, women and communities. Students observed the clinical features of nutritional deficiencies and participated in hands-on sessions in hospital study wards and the Nutritional Rehabilitation Unit.

## Population Health Informatics



**Facilitators:** Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Professor, & Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

**About the Module:** This course introduced students to the basic foundations of health informatics. The module covered informatics as a discipline, the use of data, information and knowledge, and basic computing concepts. Students practised data analytics and worked with artificial intelligence, machine learning and natural language processing. The City University of New York (CUNY) served as the knowledge partner for this course, with sessions delivered by visiting faculty Assistant Professor Dr. Karmen S. Williams.

## Midwifery Education Programme (MEP)

### Welcoming the 12th Batch of Diploma in Midwifery



BRAC JPGSPH welcomed the 12th batch of Diploma in Midwifery students through an inspiring orientation programme. The event introduced students to the values of care, compassion and professional responsibility as they begin their journey to serve mothers and newborns. Faculty members shared guidance on academic expectations and the important role of midwives in ensuring quality maternal and newborn health.

### Delegation Visit to MEP initiatives at BRAC University

In September 2025, a distinguished delegation visited the Midwifery Education Programme, the Caregiver Development Programme and the Digital Marketing Bootcamp for Health at BRAC University. The visiting team included Safi Rahman Khan, Director, Education, Skills & Migration; Brig. Gen. (R) Md. Golam Faruque, Chief Operating Officer, BRAC; Md. Aminul Islam, Team Lead – Migration Social Enterprises; Kazi Roushan Ara Sumi, Programme Head, Skills Development Programme, BRAC; Dr Laura Reichenbach, BRAC JPGSPH, BRACU; and Dr Sharmina Rahman, Director, Midwifery Education Programme, BRAC JPGSPH, BRACU, along with her team. The delegates emphasised the importance of establishing strategic collaboration in midwifery, caregiving and allied disciplines to strengthen education, workforce development and ethical migration.

## Research Updates

### ***Co-analysis session with Youth Advisory Board conducted for the Together Project 2.0***



In July 2025, the Centre of Excellence for Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) at BRAC JPGSPH completed the first co-analysis and validation session of the Together Project 2.0 with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). YAB members were introduced to thematic analysis and the project's guiding frameworks through simple, relatable examples. They reviewed body maps, discussed initial themes and coded FGD excerpts. Their reflections highlighted SRHR knowledge gaps and digital misinformation, enriching early findings and strengthening youth engagement for the upcoming phases of analysis.

### ***Intervention co-design workshops conducted in Barishal and Mymensingh under the SHINE project***

In September 2025, the SHINE Bangladesh team conducted two rounds of district-level intervention co-design workshops in Barishal and Mymensingh, engaging Community Health Workers (CHWs), their supervisors and UH&FPOs to collaboratively shape the upcoming pilot intervention. Using participatory methods, including problem tree analysis, group activities and reflective exercises, participants identified key stressors, explored feasible solutions and co-created components on supportive supervision, peer learning, mental well-being tools and community engagement strategies. The sessions were marked by strong energy, ownership and meaningful dialogue, with CHWs expressing empowerment and optimism. These workshops represent a crucial step in ensuring that frontline

workers serve not only as implementers but also as co-designers of SHINE's mental well-being intervention.

### ***Infertility and Assisted Reproduction as Violent Experiences for Women in Bangladesh: Implementing Arts-based Intervention to Address GBV***



From July to September 2025, researchers collected data through interviews with infertility treatment users, infertile women, policymakers, infertility service providers, community members and university students. This study used a framework analysis approach to analyse the data, and researchers are currently continuing the analysis. A two-day training on Framework Analysis was also conducted, with all project researchers participating. National and international Advisory Committee meetings were also held both online and in person.

### ***Just Transition for AMR: Engaging medical students and intern doctors***

The Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC) at BRAC JPGSPH conducted a deliberative workshop on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in September 2025 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, engaging 25 final-year medical students and intern doctors. The half-day session featured discussions on Bangladesh's AMR burden, WHO and national surveillance findings, and explored the misuse of antibiotics, structural drivers and One Health considerations. Participants identified key causes of AMR, including self-medication, over-the-counter access, substandard drugs and health-system

constraints, and proposed equitable, evidence-based solutions such as stronger regulatory enforcement, model-pharmacy reform, improved prescription literacy, enhanced stewardship and IPC measures, and community-led awareness initiatives.

### ***Menstrual hygiene and reproductive health: Understanding the linkages through the AMEHC Project: Data generation completed***

The quantitative data collection during Wave 2 (the second phase of the project) was successfully completed by the research team of the Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH) at BRAC JPGSPH in August 2025. A key feature of this wave was the expanded scope, which included interviewing the guardians of adolescents in addition to the adolescents themselves. The team successfully surveyed 1,904 girls and 1,899 guardians against a target of 2,000 for each group. Beyond the core interviews, crucial contextual data were also gathered, including a school checklist to assess menstrual-management facilities and detailed information on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilities at the adolescents' homes. A second round of qualitative data collection was carried out from August to September 2025 in Khulna. The research team completed 40 in-depth interviews with adolescent girls across eight schools and madrasas located in Khulna City Corporation and Dumuria Upazila, focusing on their evolving menstrual-health knowledge and experiences.

### ***Sustainable, Healthy Cities: A Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial for Aedes Control in Bangladesh***

The Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCND) at BRAC JPGSPH is conducting a three-year study titled “Sustainable, Healthy Cities: A Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial for Aedes Control in Bangladesh.” The project evaluates whether community mobilisation can effectively reduce primary dengue infections among children aged 2–12 years, lower self-reported dengue cases and decrease Aedes mosquito infestation levels. This research is being carried out in collaboration with the Infectious

Diseases Division at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), and the University of Montreal School of Public Health, with funding support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). CNCND has completed the dissemination of all serological assessment reports for the 5,278 children whose blood samples were collected during the baseline survey. These results were shared through door-to-door visits, during which caregivers were also briefed on the test findings

### ***Addressing gaps in the hypertension and diabetes care continuum in rural Bangladesh through mHealth and decentralized primary care: The Dinajpur Study***



The Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCND) at BRAC JPGSPH is leading an implementation-effectiveness trial titled “Addressing Gaps in the Hypertension and Diabetes Care Continuum in Rural Bangladesh through mHealth and Decentralised Primary Care: The Dinajpur Study”, funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), UK. This study aims to strengthen hypertension and diabetes care within the public primary healthcare system in Bangladesh. It evaluates innovative models to generate evidence on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness for potential scale-up. A household survey involving 6,750 adults was conducted to establish baseline data. Facility-readiness assessments and health-economic evaluations were carried out, along with training for healthcare providers. Refresher trainings were also conducted for healthcare providers, including doctors, nurses, SACMOs, CHCPs and CHWs, on standardised NCD management and use of the Simple App.

## ***Fieldwork Commenced for the Indo-Pacific Initiative for Sustainable Animal Health Cooperation (IPI-SAHC) Project***



The Humanitarian Hub has initiated fieldwork for the “Indo-Pacific Initiative for Sustainable Animal Health Cooperation (IPI-SAHC)” project, supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and conducted in partnership with Griffith University, Australia. The fieldwork took place in Haluaghat and Muktagachha (Mymensingh District) and in Rangamati District. The team conducted 60 in-depth interviews (IDIs) with male and female smallholder pig farmers, 30 key informant interviews (KIIs) with veterinary and health officials, and 12 observations to understand animal-health governance.

## ***Data collected for "Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Systems, Nutrition and Public Health in Satkhira" project***

In September 2025, the Humanitarian Hub launched qualitative fieldwork for the project “Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Food Systems, Nutrition and Public Health in Satkhira,” funded by Welthungerhilfe (WHH). The team is using participatory methods, including photovoice, seasonal calendars, IDIs and FGDs, to explore residents’ perceptions of climate-change impacts on their livelihoods, nutrition and public health, with a key focus on gender-based disparities.

## ***Exploring the impact of Climate Change on Health in the Saline and Drought-Prone Areas in Bangladesh***



From July to September 2025, the Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH) Hub at BRAC JPGSPH successfully completed the second round of climate–health data collection in Niamatpur Upazila (Naogaon District) and Shyamnagar Upazila (Satkhira District). Across the two sites, data were gathered from approximately 300 households in each region, covering more than 1,200 individuals per site. The team captured comprehensive health indicators—acute illnesses, non-communicable diseases, reproductive and maternal health and mental health—alongside environmental measurements, including air quality, temperature and water salinity. These datasets will support longitudinal analyses and guide climate-responsive adaptation strategies under the BRAC Health Programme.

## ***Barriers and Facilitators in Implementing Wearable Technology for Paediatric Sepsis Management in Bangladesh (Brown Sepsis Study)***

The project team at the Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU) has successfully completed and submitted the final study report followed by a donor presentation of key findings in August. Two manuscripts are currently being developed based on the research outcomes. Additionally, an abstract from this study has been submitted to the ACIS 2025 Conference in Guangzhou, China. This work advances evidence on the feasibility, acceptability, and system-readiness for integrating wearable technology into paediatric sepsis care pathways in Bangladesh.

# Peer-Reviewed Publications

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## Equity, data and the surveillance gap in antimicrobial resistance: A call for inclusive action

**Journal:** CABI One Health

**Authors:** Susan Okioma, Anne S.W. Ngunjiri, Katy Davis, Pacific Akinyi, Bachera Aktar, Abriti Arjyal, Russell Dacombe, Michael Gaitho, Consolata Guma, Mavis Kwabla, Ralalicia Limato, Webster Mavhu, Meenakshi Monga, Anthony Mwaniki, Sneha Paul, Andrew Ramsay, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Sally Theobald and Rosie Steege

**Published:** 30 September 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1079/cabionehealth.2025.0026>

<https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabionehealth.2025.0026>

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## Spatiotemporal patterns in air pollution and sound in Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Journal:** Nature Scientific Reports

**Authors:** Martha Lee, Anisur Rahman Bayazid, Lauren Rosenthal, Riaz Hossain Khan, Raphael Arku, Benjamin Barratt, Zahidul Quayyum, Jill Baumgartner

**Published:** 25 September 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-12815-9>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-12815-9>

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## Determinants of early mental health help-seeking among women in Bangladesh: A nationally representative bootstrapped regression analysis

**Journal:** PLOS Mental Health

**Authors:** Tanvir Ahmed, Salma Tasnim Luthfa, Amatul Haque Chaahat, Masudur Rahman Kanchon, Azaz Bin Sharif

**Published:** 12 September, 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000420>

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## Designing a strategic purchasing framework for urban primary healthcare services in Bangladesh: A protocol for a mixed-method study with a discrete choice experiment

**Journal:** BMJ Open

**Authors:** Baby Naznin, Fatema Kashfi, Farzana Sehrin, Bryony Dawkins, Garrett Wallace Brown, Timothy Ensor, Rumana Huque, Zahidul Quayyum, Helen Elsey

**Published:** 16 September 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2025-102053>

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/9/e102053>

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## Waterlogging, health and healthcare access in southwest Bangladesh

**Journal:** PLOS Climte

**Authors:** Lucie Clech, Lucas Franceschin, Muhammed Nazmul Islam, Mollah M. Shamsul Kabir, DM Rezoan Kobir, Malabika Sarker, Manuela De Allegri, and Valéry Ridde

**Published:** 21 August 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.70033>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijsw.70033>

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## Experiences of older adults and widows with the government allowance programmes in rural Bangladesh

**Journal:** International Journal of Social Welfare

**Authors:** Sharmin Akter Shitol, Sara Nur, Mrittika Barua, Ving Fai Chan, Lynne Lohfeld, Abu Shonchoy, Nathan Congdon, Atonu Rabbani

**Published:** 21 August 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.70033>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijsw.70033>

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## What Drives Fast Food Consumption in Asian Low- and Middle-Income Countries? –A Narrative Review of Patterns and Influencing Factors

**Journal:** Public Health Challenges

**Authors:** Rafid Hassan, Abu Ahmed Shamim, Masum Ali, Md. Ruhul Amin

**Published:** 4 August 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1002/puh2.70095>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/puh2.70095>

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## Dietary diversity as a modifier of the effect of supplementation with multiple micronutrients during pregnancy on low birth weight in a randomized controlled trial in Bangladesh

**Journal:** Science Direct

**Authors:** Mary de Boer, Andrew L Thorne-Lyman, Abu Ahmed Shamim, Lee S-F Wu, Saijuddin Shaikh, Hasmat Ali, Keith P West, Parul Christian

**Published:** 12 July 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajcnut.2025.07.007>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S000291652500396X>

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## Women's household decision-making autonomy in low economic settlements in Bangladesh: Evidence from a cross-sectional study, 2022

**Journal:** Women's Studies International Forum

**Authors:** Saifa Raz, M. Shafiqur Rahman, Bachera Aktar, Sabina Faiz Rashid

**Published:** 31 July 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2025.103181>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S027753952500130X>

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## Measuring Unmet Need for Contraception Using a Person-Centered Algorithm: An Application With a Community-Based Sample of Married Rohingya Women in Bangladesh

**Journal:** Studies in Family Planning

**Authors:** Octavia Mulhern, Rubina Hussain, Joe Strong, Ann M. Moore, Mira Tignor, Kaasar Afsana, Pragna Paramita Mondal, Altaf Hossain

**Published:** 2 July 2025

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1111/sifp.70024>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/sifp.70024>

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## Training Updates

### Qualitative Data Analysis Using ATLAS.ti



Atiya Rahman, Assistant Scientist, and Dr Pragna Paramita Mondal, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, facilitated the course in July 2025. The course blended lectures on basic qualitative data analysis concepts with hands-on exercises, teaching 21 participants to identify themes, utilise AI-assisted coding and generate network visualisations.

### Equity in Health: Concepts and Measures



The two-day short course held in September 2025 was facilitated by Professor Zahidul Quayyum, BRAC JPGSPH; Professor Atonu Rabbani, University of Dhaka; and Professor Rumana Haque, University of Dhaka. Discussions covered concepts of health equity, measuring inequalities and decomposition methods; equity in health financing and service utilisation; and equity in health policy and monitoring progress towards the SDGs.

## ***Use of Geographic Information System (GIS) in Urban Health Research***



The three-day short course held in September 2025 was facilitated by Professor Md Sofi Ullah, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka, and Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH. Participants gained hands-on knowledge of GIS fundamentals, mapping techniques, applications of GIS in urban health research and spatial analysis methods to address health challenges in urban settings.

## ***Manuscript Writing***



A three-day short course, “Unlock the Power of Publication: Manuscript Writing,” held in September 2025, was facilitated by Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC); Dr Nahitun Naher, Deputy Director, CoE-HS&UHC, Bachera Aktar, Deputy Director, Centre for Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC JPGSPH, provided early-career researchers and practitioners with practical skills to convert study reports into publishable manuscripts, covering the IMRAD structure, literature review, data presentation, ethics, journal submission and the use of AI in scientific writing.

## ***Qualitative Data Analysis Using Nvivo***

Humayra Binte Anwar, PhD, Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-up (CoE-SISU); DM Rezoan Koboier, Senior Research Associate; Sharmin Akter Shitol, Research Associate; and Shahrear Alam, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, facilitated the course in September 2025 at Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). The course combined lectures on fundamental

## ***Workshop on Documentary Filmmaking***



A workshop, facilitated by filmmaker Dina Hossain, covered essential documentary filmmaking skills for researchers. The session included hands-on practice with camera equipment, filming techniques and audio recording. Core topics included visual composition, the three-act story structure and character-driven narratives that humanise research.

## ***From Numbers to Insights: How Large Should My Quantitative Sample Be?***



An in-house session on quantitative sampling techniques and sample-size estimation was facilitated by Md Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Analyst – Statistics, BRAC JPGSPH. The session revisited the core ideas behind determining how large or small a study sample should be.

## Impact

### ***Promoting community health workers' mental wellbeing and resilience***



The NIHR-funded SHINE project shared early findings from its participatory research on the mental well-being of community health workers (CHWs) at a national dissemination meeting in August 2025 at Amari Dhaka. Evidence was presented on CHWs' mental-health challenges through an exhibition showcasing photos taken by CHWs to illustrate their concerns, and the planned intervention package that will be co-designed with communities was introduced. The session featured presentations, expert discussions and closing reflections, which will help guide the next phase of co-designed, contextualised mental-health interventions for CHWs. Experts from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, WHO, icddr,b, NGOs and academic institutions took part and contributed valuable insights during the event. The event was co-hosted by BRAC JPGSPH and SHINE partners, BRAC and the Non-Communicable Disease Control Program of the Directorate General of Health Services.

### ***Seminar: Climate change and planetary health - Lessons from the Philippines and South-East Asia***

The Hub for Climate Change, Environment and Health (CCEH) at BRAC JPGSPH hosted a seminar featuring Dr Renzo R. Guinto, MD, DrPH, Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health at Duke-NUS Medical School, who discussed the growing links between climate change and planetary health in Southeast Asia. He highlighted

how climate impacts such as sea-level rise, disease spread and mental-health risks are shaping planetary-health and public-health challenges. Speakers from BRAC and BRAC JPGSPH reflected on Bangladesh's flash-flood experience, the need for resilient health facilities and the importance of reliable climate-health data.

### ***Webinar: Strengthening global solidarity and empowering local communities for sexual and reproductive health in Rohingya camps***

Marking World Humanitarian Day, the Humanitarian Hub at BRAC JPGSPH hosted a webinar on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in the Rohingya camps. The panel featured experts Dr Fauzia Akhter Huda (icddr,b), Dr Sayed Rubayet (Ipas Bangladesh), Vincent Kahi (UNHCR) and a representative from the Government of Bangladesh. The discussion focused on the magnitude of SRHR issues, successful interventions and the role of international and national actors in the humanitarian response.

### ***Symposium: Shifting Terrains - Gender Dynamics and Health Justice***

The symposium, held in September 2025, marked the conclusion of the six-year "Countering Backlash: Reclaiming Gender Justice" programme. This flagship event examined critical intersections between gender justice and health in Bangladesh and globally, bringing together 74 stakeholders, including academics, activists and civil society representatives. Through panel discussions, photo exhibitions and documentary screenings, the symposium explored structural inequalities, masculinities, marginalised experiences and feminist allyship. Funded by SIDA and implemented with the Institute of Development Studies, the programme generated locally contextualised evidence about patriarchal backlash while identifying strategic opportunities for gender-justice defenders to counter the erosion of hard-won rights.

# Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

## *Health journalism training with district correspondents*

BHW organised the training In July - August 2025 to bring together twenty district-level journalists from across the country with the aim of enhancing their understanding of the health system and strengthening their capacity to report on critical health issues. The training was structured around expert-led sessions that combined theoretical knowledge with practical insights, highlighting the role of journalists in promoting accountability and equity in the health sector.

## *District-level multistakeholder meetings*

From August to September 2025, multistakeholder meetings organised by BHW were held at Khagrachari Sadar Hospital, Kurigram Sadar Hospital, Ulipur Health Complex, Netrakona District Hospital, Manikganj Sadar Hospital, Ghior Upazila Health Complex, Barguna District Hospital and Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital. These meetings were attended by civil surgeons, nurses, doctors and other hospital-authority representatives, who met service recipients and answered their queries.

## *Sustainable Regional Chapters: Workshop conducted to strengthen sustainability strategies*



BHW organised a day-long workshop in August 2025 attended by presidents of Health Rights Forums (HRFs), youth coordinators, host-organisation representatives and the BHW secretariat team. The objectives of the workshop were to foster ownership of Regional Chapters and outline sustainability strategies, as well as to strengthen interrelationships among RC stakeholders. Professor Rounaq Jahan, Chair of the BHW Advisory Group, and Dr Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Convenor of the Working Group, highlighted leadership transition, youth engagement and financial sustainability as critical challenges. They stressed the importance of persistent dialogue with authorities and scaling up RC initiatives for broader impact.

BRAC JPGSPH newsletter is a quarterly publication.

For any additional queries or information, please contact:

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