



## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS AT BRAC JPGSPH

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### **Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)**

The Centre aims to promote a broader understanding of gender relations/power, reproductive health, and sexuality and bodily rights in Bangladesh and in the region through research, policy, advocacy and training activities. Using both academic and action-based research, the Centre generates knowledge and translates it into advocacy-based action for social and structural changes. The Centre also facilitates advocacy efforts with various partners through online and offline national and global knowledge networks. Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Professor and Dean is the Director of the Centre. Bachera Aktar and Farhana Alam are Assistant Directors of the Centre.

### **Right Here Right Now (RHRN)**

The objective of this project is to strengthen cooperation within and across national, regional and international levels to undertake concerted advocacy for a progressive and inclusive SRHR agenda; and to advocate and hold governments accountable for their adoption of progressive and inclusive policies (and budgets thereof) for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly SRH services, including safe abortion.

Timeline: July 2017-October 2020

### **Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment (Training and Advocacy)**

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health's Centre for Gender and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR) is working with Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) to implement a capacity building and advocacy project titled "Promoting rights through inclusion and empowerment" with funding from RFSU, a Swedish organization.

Dialogue sessions will be held at selected private universities in Dhaka where sessions titled "Law, Love, and Life" will take place. These sessions are training on human rights, gender and SRHR for the students. Additionally, film competitions will be held across Bangladesh where issues around human rights, gender, SRHR and mental health will be addressed, with major focus on gender-based violence.

Timeline: Jan 2019-December 2020

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

To undertake a process documentation study outlining the story of BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED) and BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) run Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) for children aged 0-6 years in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar.

Timeline: The PD began in Feb 2019 and will continue until 2023. The first phase of the process documentation exercise is complete.

### **BRAC – Disrupting Cross Border Trafficking Networks in Jashore, Bangladesh**

The main aim of this research is to reduce the vulnerability of children and women to trafficking through capacity building, service integration, awareness raising and advocacy and support their repatriation and reintegration of Bangladeshi child victims of sex trafficking in India. In response to the gaps and barriers, BRAC has designed an evidence-driven and potentially scalable model that integrates activities and outcomes aimed at improving Protection, Prevention, Prosecution, Partnerships and promoting Learning. BRAC JGSPH will be working with them as research partner and will contribute to the development of various tools for awareness building and designing intervention through formative research and needs assessment including a baseline-end line survey to measure the effectiveness of the model.

Timeline: 15 November 2019-15 May 2021

### **Randomized controlled trial of biometrically enabled mHealth system of BRAC MNCH Community Health Program**

This study will be conducted in 36 selected districts of Bangladesh where BRAC mHealth program is being implemented at present. A randomized control trial comparing two groups of beneficiaries, one accessing only mHealth services and another with biometrically enabled mHealth services will be compared based on their maternal and child health outcomes and cost effectiveness of the intervention across three different time-points (February 2020, June 2020 and October 2020). Qualitative interviews from service providers will be used as a means to better comprehend the findings and explore the overall efficiency in resource implications (the costs), the management of the intervention and improved delivery of the services. It is expected that the use of this biometrically enabled mHealth intervention will result in improved maternal and child health outcomes along with an efficient health care management system for BRAC HNPP's maternal and child health care program.

Timeline: Nov 2019- Dec 2020

## **Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)**

The Centre conducts research, generates evidence, organizes stakeholder consultations and disseminates the results and findings to policymakers and key implementers for successful program interventions. The Centre also works towards bridging the gap between evidence generation through implementation research and policymaking, and to address contextual challenges and bottlenecks in health service delivery. The Centre is directed by Dr Malabika Sarker, Professor and Associate Dean, and Director of Research.

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

Health policy decisions that are crucial to ensuring the success of healthcare services and program delivery often have a weak evidence base. Unfortunately, much health policy-making is based largely on precedent, intuition, and politics – rather than on evidence. A new framework for health policy experiments, therefore, needs to be designed. This study involves piloting a deliberative interview technique as a central research tool in a larger study that seeks to refine ethical aspects of the design and oversight of public health policy experiments in the global context. Through the pilot phase, the research team aimed to find out if a new interviewing style based on the concept of deliberation can be applied globally, and whether or how such an approach may need to be culturally adapted to become an integral part of the study design for a global framework regarding public health policy experiments. The results analyzed will inform the main study design, which seeks to develop a global framework guiding ethical considerations within health policy experiments. This study, which is led by Heidelberg University, is carried out by an international team of researchers from Bangladesh, the United States, Tanzania, and Germany.

Timeline: July 2018-August 2021

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

Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication (STRIPE). In the initial phase, the project intends to collect information of stakeholders including medical officers, health workers at sub-centres, PHCs, CHCs and district levels. This will be achieved through an online survey and paper-based survey using a questionnaire. In the next phase, the report findings will synthesize the information and the lessons learned from the experience into academic programs and training program in Implementation of Public Health Programs that will be offered through academic and training institutions, globally.

Timeline: October 2017-December 2020

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

The aim of this study is to assess the relative importance of different motives for which husbands might use violence against their wives as well as the reasons for which low-income husbands use more violence than high-income husbands in Bangladesh. In addition, the study tests different interventions to reduce intimate partner violence.

Timeline: June 2019-May 2021

### **Millions Cool Roofs Challenge**

The objective of this study is to improve access to sustainable cooling through the rapid scaling of cool roofs in countries with large numbers of people facing heat stress risks.

Timeline: July 2019-December 2020

### **Climate Change, Migrations and Health Systems Resilience in Haiti and Bangladesh (ClimHB)**

The Climate Change, Migration and Health Systems Resilience (ClimHB) project is an applied and interdisciplinary research project in Social Science and Public Health, which aims to analyse the capacities and vulnerabilities of health systems in Haiti and Bangladesh, through the lens of climate change-induced migration flows. Funded by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the presidential call "Make Our Planet Great Again" (MOPGA), this project is part of an international research project in the social sciences and public health, focusing on public policies and health systems.

Timeline: January 2019-December 2021

## **Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE HS&UHC)**

The Centre aims to facilitate efforts to accelerate evidence based, equitable and sustainable action towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh. The Centre facilitates advocacy through awareness-building campaigns in UHC forums, experience sharing and research dissemination through workshops, policy dialogues, seminars -both within and outside the country.

The Centre is directed by Dr Syed Masud Ahmed, Professor.

### **Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance for Health System Strengthening and Advancing UHC Agenda in Bangladesh: The Role of Frontline Healthcare Service Providers in Improving Performance**

The study seeks to explore practices that are related to the delivery of responsive, equitable and quality services by the health care providers and managers at the primary health care (PHC) levels. This is expected to align motivation of the frontline health workers with the macro level expectations from the health services delivery network, and strengthen the PHC system for better performance.

Timeline: August 2017-August 2021

### **A Global Social Sciences Network for Infectious Threats and Antimicrobial Resistance**

Create, pilot and evaluate curricula for training social scientists in preparedness and response to infectious threats and through curricular development and piloting social science knowledge of infectious threats among non-social sciences actors. The study will adapt, test, and evaluate vulnerability assessment tools on the ground and develop engagement models to facilitate collaboration across multiple stakeholders.

Timeline: January 2019-December 2021

## **Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)**

This Centre facilitates inter-sectoral research, training, policy and results-oriented action with a focus on health equity challenges of the urban poor, particularly on governance in urban health; and motivates evidence-based dialogue and decision-making, and supports the partnerships and networking among different stakeholders. The Centre is Directed by Dr Zahidul Quayyum, Professor and Dr Md Tanvir Hasan, Assistant Professor.

### **ARISE - Accountability and Responsiveness in Informal Settlements for Equity**

The objective of this study is to develop interdisciplinary and multi-sectorial partnerships between researchers, non-governmental organizations, community, service providers, government departments and other non-government and private actors to co-produce and test new understandings, evidence and solutions for improving health and wellbeing of the urban informal settlement dwellers.

Timeline: Dec 2018-Feb 2024

### **Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities**

The objective of this study is to integrate and coordinate research and stakeholder engagement that support evidence-based policies aimed at improving population health, health equity and environmental sustainability in cities around the world. The Hub, and its projects, will achieve this objective through comparative studies that involve participatory research and coproduction of knowledge among academic researchers, policy makers and practitioners, and civil society; developing models for prospective policy evaluation.

Timeline: Jun 2018-Feb 2022

### **Forced Displacement and Education: Building the Evidence for What Works**

The study will work towards advancing its understanding on education for the forcibly displaced as part of a broader education sector agenda of improving learning outcomes for populations living in poverty, exclusion, or distress. Additionally, the study aims to improve its effectiveness regarding its role and contributions to facilitating transition and uptake from humanitarian education responses to long-term development agendas that can support sustainable access to quality education for the forcibly displaced and the communities that host them.

Timeline: October 2018 –August 2019

## **Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)**

The Centre conducts and facilitates discovery, development, and delivery of research on NCDs and nutrition. The Centre also strengthens the capacity of health care providers, policymakers, researchers and program managers on prevention, treatment, and control of NCDs & malnutrition. The Centre also carries out evidence-based advocacy for scaling-up prevention, treatment, and control activities of NCDs and malnutrition. Dr Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor, is the Director of the Centre.

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

The objective of this research project is to establish a network of community based, NCD surveillance sites in Bangladesh, India North, India South, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Timeline: February 2017-March 2021