

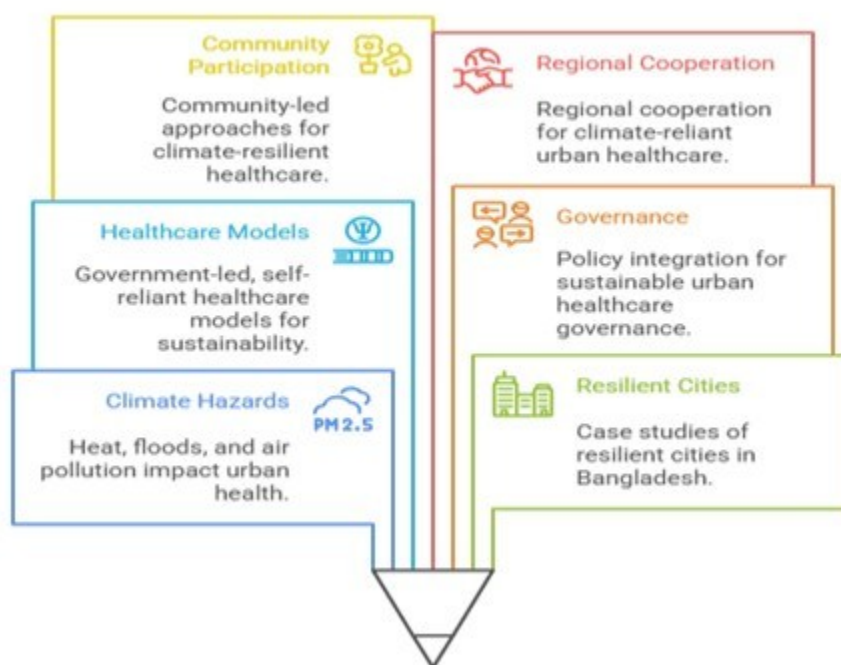
Building Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Urban Primary Healthcare Model Integrated System: Government Leadership, Multisectoral Action, and Shared Responsibility Across Southeast Asian Cities

Rapid urbanization in Southeast Asia, particularly in Bangladesh, is placing unprecedented pressure on urban health systems, with growing populations in cities outpacing infrastructure and service capacity. This rapid growth has created challenges in ensuring equitable access to primary healthcare, particularly for vulnerable groups in informal settlements. Developing a sustainable Urban Primary Healthcare (UPHC) model requires strong government leadership, multisectoral coordination, and shared responsibility among national and local authorities, development partners, NGOs, and the private sector. By integrating policy, planning, and financing across sectors, cities can build self-reliant and resilient healthcare systems that ensure continuity, quality, and equity in service delivery while adapting to the demands of rapidly expanding urban populations.

Session Overview

Southeast Asia's rapidly growing cities face rising demand for quality health services. Urban primary healthcare (UPHC) systems often remain fragmented, donor-dependent, and weakly linked with national health structures, limiting sustainability. To build resilient and self-reliant systems, governments must strengthen leadership, financing, and institutional capacity. Embedding UPHC within national and municipal frameworks can ensure accountability and long-term continuity. This session will discuss practical strategies for sustaining urban health systems through coordinated governance, predictable financing, and multisectoral collaboration. It will emphasize shared responsibility among governments, NGOs, the private sector, and development partners to achieve sustainable and inclusive urban health for all.

Session Themes



Resilient Cities, Healthy Communities: Case Studies from Bangladesh and the Region

The discussion will showcase practical examples of urban health and climate resilience initiatives successfully implemented across Southeast Asia. Drawing from cities such as Dhaka, Bangkok, and others, the presentation will highlight innovative approaches that integrate health, environmental sustainability, and climate adaptation. Case studies will include community-lead flood management in urban slums, the development of heat action plans, and the use of green infrastructure to improve air quality and reduce urban heat islands. Bangladesh's own experiences—such as establishing climate-resilient health facilities, strengthening early warning systems for urban floods, and enhancing multi-sector coordination at the city level—will be featured to illustrate scalable and locally adapted solutions. The presentation will also explore enabling factors such as strong political commitment, cross-sector partnerships, and community engagement that have contributed to these successes. Together, these cases will provide actionable insights and lesson learned for other cities aiming to build healthier and more climate-resilient urban environments.

Sustainability of Urban Primary Healthcare Models: Government Leadership, Reform Pathways, and Shared Accountability for Self-Reliant Systems

This thematic session will explore how Southeast Asian governments can transform donor-dependent urban health projects into sustainable, nationally owned systems, that are resilient to climate and socio-economic challenges. The discussion will examine sustainable financing approaches- such as strategic purchasing, co-financing, and municipal health budgeting- alongside institutional reforms to strengthen integration with national health systems and policy frameworks that promote multisectoral collaboration. It will highlight the roles of national and local governments, NGOs, and development partners in providing technical, financial, and managerial support to ensure service continuity, quality, and accountability. Case examples from Bangladesh and neighboring countries will illustrate practical pathways toward self-reliant and inclusive urban primary healthcare systems, emphasizing innovations in governance, domestic resource mobilization, and effective public-private partnerships.

Governing for Sustainable Urban Primary Healthcare: Integrating Policy, Planning, and Multisectoral Action

This session will focus on strategies to make urban primary healthcare models sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant in the face of climate and urbanization challenges. It will examine how governments at national and local levels can lead, coordinate, and reform health systems to ensure long-term sustainability, while leveraging technical and financial supports from all stakeholders, including development partners, private sector actors, and communities. Drawing on examples from Southeast Asian cities, the discussion will highlight policy and governance approaches that align urban planning, health services, disaster preparedness, and climate adaptation to strengthen primary healthcare delivery. Key themes will include developing sustainable financing and resource allocation mechanisms to ensure service continuity; fostering multisectoral collaboration to address social and environmental determinants of health; strengthening institutional capacity for adaptive governance; and enhancing community engagement to promote equity and accountability. The session will also explore practical approaches for scaling sustainable models and advancing self-reliant health systems capable of effectively responding to emerging urban health challenges.

Building Forward Together: Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Urban Health

The panel discussion will explore regional collaboration to strengthen sustainable urban health systems in Southeast Asia. Experts will share lessons from urban health programs, focusing on governance, service delivery, and multisectoral coordination. Case studies will highlight innovative approaches in financing, resource mobilization, and institutional reform. The session aims to provide actionable recommendations for scaling sustainable urban primary healthcare through cooperative regional action.



Special Session Featuring Bangladesh on Delivering Sustainable Urban Primary Healthcare Services

Time: 18:00–20:00, 17 November 2025
Venue: ICUH, Wellington New Zealand

Session Schedule

Time (Minutes)	Session Title & Presenter
15 Minutes	Welcome & Opening Remarks: (i) Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman <i>Secretary, Health Services Division</i> (ii) Mr. Md. Rezaul Maksud Jahedi <i>Secretary, Local Government Division</i> (iii) Ms. Giselle Sebag <i>Executive Director, The International Society for Urban Health</i>
8 Minutes	Presentation on Resilient Cities, Healthy Communities: Case Studies from Bangladesh and the Region: Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam, Health Advisor <i>The Nordic Embassy/Embassy of Sweden to Bangladesh</i>
8 Minutes	Presentation on Sustainability of Urban Primary Healthcare Models: Leadership, Reform, and Accountability: Mr. Khondoker Md. Nazmul Huda Shamim, Joint Secretary, LGD
9 Minutes	Governing Sustainable Urban Primary Healthcare: Policy, Planning, and Action: Mr. Rui Liu, Senior Health Specialist, ADB
35 Minutes	Panel Discussion: Building Forward Together: Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Urban Health: Moderator: Mr. Shamim Hayder Talukder <i>Chief Executive Officer, Eminence</i> Panelists: (i) Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Secretary, Health Services Division (ii) Mr. Md. Rezaul Maksud Jahedi, Secretary, LGD (iii) Mr. Rui Liu, Senior Health Specialist, ADB (iv) Mr. Margub Aref Jahangir, Health Specialist, UNICEF, Bangladesh
15 Minutes	Interactive Q&A and Discussion and Next Steps: Moderator: Joint Secretary (Planning), HSD