

Lead News

Public–Private Partnerships Emerge as Critical Lever for Equitable Urban Health in Bangladesh

15th Knowledge Sharing Virtual Session

Topic: Leveraging Public–Private Partnerships for Equitable Urban Health Systems in Bangladesh

Meet Resource Personnel

Welcome Speech

Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir
Health Specialist (Urban)
UNICEF Bangladesh

Session Chair

Dr. Dewan Md Emdadul Haque
Health Manager
UNICEF Bangladesh

Chief Guest

Mr. Shah Imran Ali Reza
Additional Secretary (Planning)
Wings HSD, MoH&FW

Panelists

Dr. Iftekhar I. Mannan
Director
Popular Medical College Hospital

Dr. Sharmin Mizan
Public Health Specialist
LUPHSP Project
Local Government Division

Dr. Asif Iqbal
Assistant Director
School Health
DGHS

Ms. Shaila Purvin
Chief Executive Officer
Surfer Health Network

Presenters

Masuda Begum
Director Health & Nutrition
Nari Mahstre

Dr. Imran Ahmed Chowdhury
Head Health System
Transformation & Innovation
BRAC Health Program (BRAC)

Dr. Md. Shamim Hayer Talukder
CEO, Eminence Bangladesh
Member Secretary, BUHN

Closing Remarks

Ummay Farhin Sultana
AD, Eminence Bangladesh
Project Manager, BUHN

13 April 2026
Time: 2.30 - 4.00 PM BDT
Virtual Platform: Zoom

With rapid urbanization reshaping Bangladesh’s demographic and health landscape, leading policymakers, development partners, and health experts have underscored the urgent need to reposition Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a central pillar of urban health reform. This consensus emerged from the 15th Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar hosted by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN), in collaboration with key stakeholders including UNICEF Bangladesh, bringing together representatives from government, private sector, academia, and civil society. The high-level dialogue highlighted that although urban areas contribute significantly to national economic growth, access to quality healthcare remains deeply unequal. With nearly half of the population now residing in cities, marginalized groups, particularly those living in informal settlements, continue to face limited access to affordable and quality services. Participants noted that high out-of-pocket health expenditures, estimated at over two-thirds of total health spending, continue to place a disproportionate burden on low-income households, while service coverage gaps, including lower immunization rates in urban poor communities, reflect systemic inequities.

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Bangladesh Launches Farmers’ Card to Strengthen Rural Resilience and Inclusive Food Security Systems

Bangladesh has launched a landmark “Farmers’ Card” programme aimed at transforming agricultural support systems by directly reaching millions of farmers with integrated subsidies, financial services, and digital agriculture support. The initiative, officially introduced on 14 April 2026 in Tangail, marks a significant shift toward a more inclusive, technology-enabled, and climate-resilient rural economy. According to reporting by Reuters, the programme is designed to address long-standing structural barriers faced by smallholder farmers, particularly sharecroppers and marginal landowners who often remain excluded from formal banking and subsidy systems. Under the new system, registered farmers will receive direct access to subsidised fertilisers and seeds, low-interest agricultural loans,

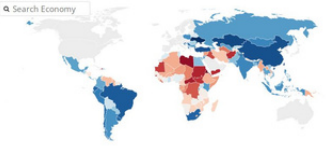
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Measles Outbreak Spreads Across Bangladesh, Exposing Critical Immunization Gaps and Urban Health Vulnerabilities

Bangladesh is facing a large-scale measles outbreak affecting 58 of 64 districts, raising serious public health concerns and exposing critical weaknesses in routine immunization coverage and urban health system resilience. According to a Disease Outbreak News report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the outbreak has resulted in more than 19,000 suspected cases, nearly 3,000 laboratory-confirmed infections, and 166 deaths, primarily among children under five years of age. The outbreak, first reported in early April 2026, has rapidly expanded across all eight divisions of the country, with the highest concentration of cases recorded in densely populated urban areas....

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Members and Partners Update



World Bank Group Scorecard: five takeaways from the 2026 Spring Meetings data update



Towards Better Air Quality in Egypt

How aligning financial strategies with climate finance can drive resilient growth

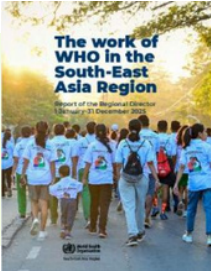


Rivers for generations: Knowledge and partnerships for river basins





Water utility creditworthiness: Reduce leaks, secure future



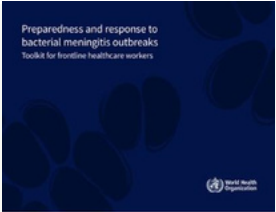
The work of WHO in the South-East Asia Region: Report of the Regional Director 1 January–31 December 2025

Tracking progress in reducing maternal mortality towards 2030: brief



Validation of elimination of soil-transmitted helminthiases as a public health problem in children: criteria and procedure



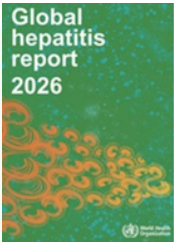


Preparedness and response to bacterial meningitis outbreaks: toolkit for frontline healthcare workers



WHO pharmaceuticals newsletter: 2026, No. 1

Global hepatitis report 2026



08th edition, Epidemiological Bulletin WHO Health Emergencies Programme WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, 22 April 2026. Reporting period: 06 - 19 Apr 2026



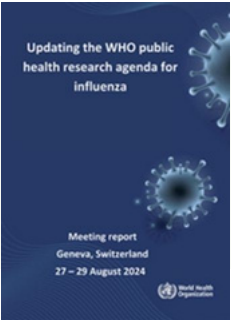


Indicators for human exposures to zoonotic pathogens



Report of the WHO stakeholders update webinar on human African trypanosomiasis, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 June 2025

Updating the WHO public health research agenda for influenza: meeting report, Geneva, Switzerland, 27-29 August 2024



Antimicrobial resistance curriculum assessment tool for pharmacy education



Members and Partners Update

- Tracking rehabilitative care expenditure under the System of Health Accounts 2011
- Towards better vision: WHO South-East Asia regional meeting on eye health
- 07th edition, Epidemiological Bulletin WHO Health Emergencies Programme WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, 08 April 2026. Reporting period: 23 Mar - 05 Apr 2026
- Strategy for the Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases in the WHO African Region 2026-2030
- HRP annual report 2025
- Integrated post-validation and post-verification surveillance planning toolkit for neglected tropical diseases: a planning toolkit
- Sorting Grenada's Waste: Reflections & Insights from a Waste Characterization Study
- Sahab City-Wide Public Space Assessment
- Community Waste Bank Guidelines
- UN-Habitat Catalogue of Solutions 2026-2029
- As climate change deepens, African cities face the daunting prospect of more deadly rains
- Improving resilience and governance are keys to South Sudan's development
- Hunger intensifies in South Sudan as 7.8 million people face high acute food insecurity and 2.2 million children suffer acute malnutrition
- "Children in Darfur have reached a breaking point"
- Famine a harsh reality for children as acute hunger numbers double over past decade
- Acute food insecurity and malnutrition remain alarmingly high as crises deepen, UN, EU and partners warn in new report
- Largest catch-up initiative delivers over 100 million childhood vaccinations
- Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee
- Radiation and Children's Health
- WHO expands global biomanufacturing workforce network to strengthen equitable access and health security
- Global forum takes stock of progress on new TB vaccines for adults and adolescents
- Australia becomes the 30th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem
- Efforts to eliminate hepatitis delivers gains but more action needed to meet 2030 targets
- Practicing today for tomorrow's emergencies – WHO convenes countries and partners to simulate response to major disease outbreak
- WHO prequalifies first-ever malaria treatment for newborns and infants, adds new diagnostic tests
- Largest catch-up initiative delivers over 100 million childhood vaccinations
- Algeria eliminates trachoma as a public health problem
- WHO certifies the Bahamas for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- After three years of conflict, Sudan faces a deeper health crisis
- Joint Statement FAO/WHO/WOAH Joint One Health Learning Taskforce
- Kazakhstan becomes first country in Central Asia to earn WHO recognition for regulation of medicines and imported vaccines
- Cities unite to put One Health into action
- WHO calls for action: "Together for health. Stand with science." to mark World Health Day
- Urban health leaders renew commitment to accelerate life-saving action in cities
- WHO updates guidelines on opioid dependence treatment and overdose prevention
- From evidence to action: WHO consultation advances public health and social measures for public health emergencies
- Message by the Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO - March 2026
- New regional partnerships to drive joint environmental action in Central Asia
- Delivering greater cooperation and nature action across Central Asia
- As climate change deepens, African cities face the daunting prospect of more deadly rains
- Mountain ecosystems: climate action at the highest level
- Central Asia united with UN partners for a healthy environment



Key Stakeholders Message/ Urban Voices



Dr. Dewan Md. Emdadul Haque
Health Manager
UNICEF Bangladesh

Reflecting on the recent knowledge-sharing dialogue, I am encouraged by the depth of engagement and the shared recognition among stakeholders that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are essential to the future of urban health systems in Bangladesh. The discussion clearly highlighted that as urbanization accelerates, our traditional approaches to health service delivery must evolve to meet increasingly complex and diverse needs. From my experience working within the development sector, one of the most critical insights is that PPPs are not simply about sharing responsibilities, they are about creating synergy. When effectively designed, these partnerships can leverage the strengths of each sector: the public sector’s mandate and reach, the private sector’s efficiency and innovation, and the community sector’s trust and grassroots engagement. However, realizing this synergy requires deliberate planning, strong governance, and a shared commitment to equity.

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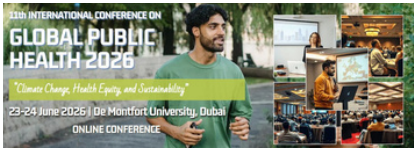
Ms. Shaila Purvin
Chief Executive Officer
Surjer Hashi Networkh

As someone who has spent years working closely with underserved urban communities, I have witnessed firsthand both the immense potential and the persistent gaps within Bangladesh’s urban health system. The recent dialogue on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) reinforced a reality we encounter every day: no single sector can address the growing health needs of our rapidly expanding urban population.



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Upcoming Events & Conferences



11th International Conference on Global Public Health 2026



The 1st International Online Conference on Urban Sciences



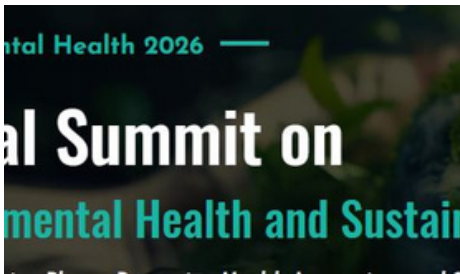
26th International AIDS Conference



International Conference on Climate Change and Human Health Impacts



World Health Summit 2026



Global Summit on Environmental Health and Sustainability



ICUH 2026



12th Public Health Conference [PHC2026]



5th International Conference on Global Healthcare and Medicine

Recent Publications

- [Health Insecurity and Occupational Risk Factors Among Urban Waste Collectors in Dhaka City, Bangladesh: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)
- [Rural and urban patient perceptions of electronic health record data use in research and clinical care: A cross-sectional survey research study](#)
- [Urban climate-NCD syndemics in LMICs: a transdisciplinary framework for Health action](#)
- [Activating urban infrastructure for health: A hope framework for health and planetary resilience](#)
- [Long-term cost-effectiveness of a mobile health intervention delivered by clinical pharmacists and community health workers for type 2 diabetes management in urban African American and Latinx populations](#)
- [A One Health performance evaluation system for urban parasitic disease prevention and control: The Shanghai, China pilot scheme](#)
- [Oral Health Literacy Among Pregnant Women in Urban Malaysia: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)
- [The digital divide in adoption and advanced use of electronic health records among US hospitals: rural versus urban disparities from 2008 to 2023](#)
- [Determinants of Plastic Waste Awareness, Preventive Practices, and Health Symptoms: An Urban-Rural Comparative Cross-Sectional Study in Bangladesh](#)
- [Budget impact analysis of a vision center-based community eye health program in an underserved urban slum in India](#)
- [CHOICE: A Comprehensive and Coordinated Colorectal Cancer Screening Program in a Large Urban Health System](#)
- [Interlinkages between Chronic Illness and Urban Poverty in Bangladesh](#)
- [Beyond medication: factors contributing to uncontrolled hypertension from the 2023 Indonesian health survey](#)
- [Technology security in Russian education: highlighting socio-economic, technological, and ethical concerns](#)
- [Microplastic pollution in UNESCO world natural heritage sites: A global integrative review](#)
- [Pharmaceuticals in Water: Fate, Health Risks, Treatment and Governance for Sustainable Management](#)
- [Climate change mitigation policies in agrifood systems: a scoping review of effectiveness, accessibility, adoption, and sustainability among underserved farmers](#)
- [Heavy metal contamination in watermelon and orange across urban markets: a year-long assessment](#)
- [Physician-to-population ratios and geographic disparities in Afghanistan's healthcare system](#)
- [A qualitative study of violence against married and unmarried men in urban Bangladesh](#)
- [Surface water quality contamination by selected residues of pharmaceuticals repurposed for Covid-19 treatment](#)
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing of Rohingya Refugees: A Scoping Review](#)
- [Impact of Housing Construction Materials on Indoor Temperatures in Urban Slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh](#)

Call for Proposal

- [Documenting the Women and Youth Led Response to Humanitarian Crises \(WYLRHC\) Approach](#)
- [Developing Capacity-Building Modules on Climate-Induced Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) Risk Mitigation, Resilience Building, and Recovery Strategies for Women and Girls](#)
- [For Provision of Supplying “Food, Venue & Accommodation for the participants of Half Yearly Review & Planning Workshop and Half Yearly Partner’s Meeting at Dhaka Division” under the MaPinCBR Program](#)
- [“Maintaining Access to Humanitarian and Inclusion Services for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh”](#)
- [TENDER NOTICE](#)
- [Comprehensive Staff Insurance Coverage for Christian Aid Bangladesh office](#)
- [Terms of Reference \(ToR\): Hiring a consultant for an assessment titled “Assessment and Climate-Resilient Retrofit Design of Cyclone Shelters in Bangladesh”](#)
- [Implementation of H5N1 Avian Influenza Surveillance in Domestic Cats](#)
- [Consultancy Services for Architectural and Engineering Design, Detailed Cost Estimation, and Tender Documentation for the Construction of a 250-Bed General Hospital](#)
- [Environmental and Social Impact Assessment \(ESIA\) Compliance Assessment in Selected EPZ/EZ](#)
- [Request for Proposal \(RFP\) for Baseline Study and Capacity Assessment of CSOs for ENABLE Project](#)
- [ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR ESG MARKET INTELLIGENCE, PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT & DEMAND STIMULATION](#)

Job Opportunities

- [Senior Medical Officer- Obstetrics and Gynecology](#)
- [Technical Specialist- IPC & WASH](#)
- [Construction Engineer](#)
- [Medical Officer - Maternity](#)
- [Junior Consultant - Anesthesia](#)
- [Program Officer for the Development of Indigenous People \(DIP\) Sector](#)
- [Child Protection Case Management Supervisor](#)
- [Officer – Child Protection Prevention](#)
- [Associate Officer – Multi-Purpose Child Protection Centre \(MPCPC\)](#)
- [Associate Officer – Community Engagement & Child Protection](#)
- [Coordinator- Programme Operations](#)
- [Officer- Case Management](#)
- [Senior Officer- Protection](#)
- [Programme Officer, BSEA](#)
- [People and Culture Coordinator](#)
- [PLANT HEAD, FMCG](#)
- [Project Admin, Finance, and Procurement Officer](#)
- [Health Project Officer](#)
- [Environmental and Social Officer](#)

A Special Thanks to...		
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Secretariat		
Eminence Associates for Social Development		

Newspaper and Media Update



Measles surge overwhelms Dhaka hospitals as patients flood in nationwide



Child dies with measles symptoms at RMCH



WHO: Bangladesh at high risk of measles due to vaccination gaps



Measles outbreak persists, hospitals face mounting pressure



Vitamin A campaign targets 5.8m more children than measles vaccination drive



Muhit: Children with disabilities to be brought under public healthcare



WHO urges urgent vaccination drive as measles risk remains high in Bangladesh



Measles will be under control by next week, health minister hopes



DPHI-BMU signs memos with Hope Foundation, Alo Bhubon Trust

More News

National

- Study finds rising early-onset type 2 diabetes among young people
- Experts stress proper treatment for patients with measles symptoms
- 26% of HIV patients in Bangladesh remain untreated as infections rise
- 74% of children infected with measles were unvaccinated: DGHS
- Experts urge tobacco tax reform in FY27 budget to curb non-communicable disease, boost revenue
- Eskayef, Novo Nordisk announce local production of modern insulin cartridges
- New AI-based tool shows promise in endometriosis risk detection
- Measles outbreak now spreads to remote Ctg hill tracts
- WHO says Bangladesh at high risk from measles, urges measures to close immunity gaps
- Old drug, new promise: How aspirin is emerging as a cancer fighter
- Bangladesh's Rhythm Group, India's Manipal Hospitals sign medical tourism deal
- Sufficient stock of all vaccines in country for next six months: Health minister
- Human organ transplantation bill passed relaxing restrictions for donations
- Health sector to get 5% of GDP in phases: PM

International

- Protection for all: Why vaccines must reach everyone, everywhere
- Global meningitis death toll remains alarming despite progress
- World Liver Day 2026 – “Solid Habits, Strong Liver”
- New research challenges long-held childhood obesity theory
- Millions of women still left behind in global health: UNFPA
- Global hunger report warns of rising malnutrition and famine risks
- Trump unveils 100 percent tariff on drugs to push for pharmaceutical deals
- Minerals for aid: Are new US health deals ‘exploiting’ African countries?
- War and neglect fuel deadly measles epidemic in Sudan’s Darfur
- Sexual violence in Sudan triggers mental health crisis: UN
- WHO approves first Malaria drug for babies
- ‘Encouraging’: Global rainforest loss slows in 2025 after record year
- More than 6 million Somalis face hunger amid climate shocks and conflict
- Precision medicine and future of health care
- Iran war squeezes India's pharma supply chain
- UK: Health data listed for sale on Alibaba in China
- Merck's Keytruda: A lifesaving drug, a global divide
- South Africa, Mozambique are global tuberculosis hotspots
- How bad smells affect your health