BANGLADESH URBAN HEALTH NETWORK
e-Newsletter
August 2026
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Lead News

A new chance to fix urban primary healthcare in Bangladesh



More than 40 percent Bangladeshis live in urban areas, 35 percent of whom reside in slums, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' 2022 census. But urban primary healthcare services are still delivered by a fragmented mix of providers: the health ministry operates urban dispensaries and hospital outpatient departments, city corporations run some facilities, and NGOs manage contracted and donor-supported clinics. Private chambers, diagnostic centres, pharmacies, and informal providers deliver much of the first-contact care. Rapid urbanisation has created a larger, increasingly mobile and diverse population.

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An epidemic that shouldn't have occurred

As of August 12, 2026, at least 885 deaths, mostly of children, from measles or measles-like symptoms have been reported in the country. This is a tragedy that is unacceptable because it was avoidable. Measles was largely eradicated in Bangladesh, thanks to the country's successful immunisation campaigns that earned praise worldwide. So why have we lost so many children to this disease this year, with new deaths being reported almost every day? The Prothom Alo report identified five factors leading up to the 2026 death toll.



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Cholera vaccination campaign launched



The government launched preventive oral cholera vaccination campaign on Thursday, marking the start of a drive targeting 51.75 lakh people in 14 high-risk upazilas and police station areas.

Health minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain inaugurated the campaign titled 'Inaugural ceremony and press conference of the preventive oral cholera vaccination campaign 2026' at the Nagar Bhaban auditorium of Dhaka South City Corporation.

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Members and Partners Update



World Cleanup Day 2026: From Clean Plates to Clean Cities



Ten key messages from I4C26 to inform urban climate action ahead of COP31

London's Clean Air Zone Reverses Pollution Damage to Children's Lungs



Time, Not Distance: How Urban Congestion Shapes Health Access





Govt plans prevention-focused healthcare overhaul



Climate change, health and informal workers – highlighting urban challenges

Urban health capacities assessment and response: integrating formal and informal health systems in Enugu State, Nigeria



Urban health capacities assessment and response: strengthening local government delivery of Ghana's Community Health and Planning Services in Greater Accra





Record August Heat Pushes Global Temperatures Back Above 1.5°C, Western Europe's Hottest Summer



"Protect yourself. Protect your family. Protect your community": Bangladesh launches preventive cholera vaccination campaign

Dhaka bears brunt of dengue as peak may still lie ahead



UN Volunteer engineers bring safe drinking water to coastal communities in Bangladesh





Tanzania tests national readiness to tackle extreme heat risks ahead of AFCON 2027



Uganda's children and youth call for climate action that protects their future

Nearly half of Eastern Caribbean children exposed to multiple climate hazards



With climate change threatening a generation, we need to scale solutions now



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Members and Partners Update

- Can Traffic Calming Work on Arterial Roads? Bogotá Shows It Can
- Seeing red when cyclists decide not to stop at traffic lights
- In London, children's lungs grow faster as traffic pollution falls
- Toluca strengthens urban resilience through environmental restoration and public space recovery
- Building Climate-Resilient and Low-Carbon Hospitals—Why Regional Learning Matters
- Tanzania tests national readiness to tackle extreme heat risks ahead of AFCON 2027
- Twelve Years of Advancing Climate Change Resilience in Asian Cities: Insights from the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund 2013-2025
- Beyond World Breastfeeding Week 2026, WHO and UNICEF call for strengthened action to protect, promote and support breastfeeding
- ITN-BUET Strengthens Municipal Capacity for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) through Mentor–Mentee Exposure Visit
- WHO Health Emergencies EPI-WIN webinar: Preparing for El Niño and climate-related health risks: global insights and country experiences
- WHO/UNICEF report highlights gaps in health facility sanitation
- With climate change threatening a generation, we need to scale solutions now
- Nearly half of Eastern Caribbean children exposed to multiple climate hazards
- From Clean Plates to Clean Cities
- Ten key messages from I4C26 to inform urban climate action ahead of COP31
- London's Clean Air Zone Reverses Pollution Damage to Children's Lungs
- A new chance to fix urban primary healthcare in Bangladesh
- Time, Not Distance: How Urban Congestion Shapes Health Access
- Govt plans prevention focused healthcare overhaul
- Climate change, health and informal workers – highlighting urban challenges and responses from India and Zimbabwe
- Record August Heat Pushes Global Temperatures Back Above 1.5°C, Western Europe's Hottest Summer
- Urban health capacities assessment and response: integrating formal and informal health systems in Enugu State, Nigeria
- Urban health capacities assessment and response: strengthening local government delivery of Ghana's Community Health and Planning Services in Greater Accra
- Harnessing Nature for Urban Resilience in Bangladesh: From Policy to Practice
- Building Resilient Cities through Inclusive and Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction
- Dhaka bears brunt of dengue as peak may still lie ahead
- Bangladesh: Water, Water Everywhere, but not a Drop to Drink







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Key Stakeholders Message / Urban Voices



HM Taseen Jubair Bhuiyan
Masters in Applied Statistics and Data Science
Jahangirnagar University

Dengue returns to Bangladesh every monsoon, and this year is already one of the worst: by mid-October, more than 99,000 people have been admitted to hospital and 303 have died, with Dhaka Division carrying two in five of them. That already clears last year's full-season tally, and the season is still climbing - September was the peak, with 43,774 admissions, and October has added another 19,655. The record remains 2023, when 320,000 were admitted and 1,705 died. Covid-19 taught us the same lesson in a different way.

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Md Shahazin Rhaman Mayen
Professional Masters in Disaster Management
Department of Disaster Management
University of Dhaka



Dengue has become a major public health challenge in Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka and other rapidly growing cities. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the country recorded 97,082 dengue cases requiring hospitalization and 299 deaths between 1 January and 10 October 2026. September was particularly deadly, with 148 reported deaths, compared with 43 in August.

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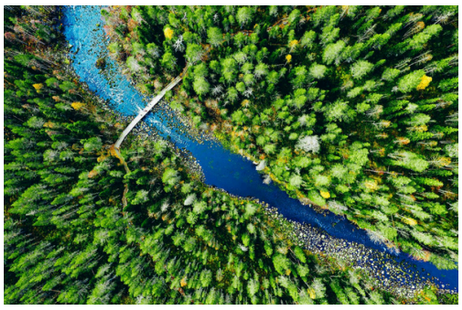
Upcoming Events & Conferences



Rethinking Pedestrian Spaces for Cities of the Global South



World Humanitarian Day 19 August



Conference themes Bilbao 2026



From regional learning to urban heat action in Iloilo City





International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 9 August



International Youth Day 12 August

European Public Health Conference



HEAL 2026

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Recent Publications

- No escaping the heat: health and economic impacts of heat stress on informal workers in urban Bangladesh
- A battleground of climate change: Summer air temperatures in social housing
- Inequities in Children's Food Environment: A Comparison between Slum and Non-slum Settings in Urban Bangladesh
- "What is the benefit of visiting a doctor, if we cannot afford a diagnostic test or buy medicine?" An exploratory study of equity in antimicrobial resistance among the urban informal settlements of Dhaka
- Environmental contamination with zoonotic hookworms in urban Bangladesh: molecular evidence from shared human–dog interfaces
- What health risks arise in shrinking cities? A systematic review
- Measuring socioeconomic differences in access to healthcare under universal health coverage scheme: evidence from Dubai Household Health Surveys, 2019 and 2023
- Independent and joint effects of apparent temperature and ambient air pollution on endometriosis-related outpatient visits in Beijing, China: a time-series study
- Spatial variation in neurological outcomes after shockable out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in central Tokyo: a single-center retrospective study
- Stakeholder perspectives informing the design and development of a digital self-help intervention for healthy aging and mental well-being among older adults in urban India: a qualitative study
- The influence of port proximity on air pollution and public health in the world's cities
- Measuring the Health of Philadelphia's City Council Districts
- Mapping Heat-Sensitive Multimorbidity and Adaptation Mismatch with Equity-Oriented GeoAI Techniques: A Dual-Scale Analysis for Sustainable Urban Climate-Health Governance
- Community Environment, Parenting Practices, Social Support, and Children's Quality of Life in Shanghai, China: A Multi-Scalar and Gendered Analysis
- Comparative Study of Hypertension Prevalence, Health-Related Quality of Life, and Healthcare Barriers Among Diabetic and Non-Diabetic Populations in Urban Slums of Bangladesh
- The Influence of Port Proximity on Air Pollution and Public Health in the World's Cities
- A Battleground of Climate Change: Summer Air Temperatures in Social Housing
- Morphology-Constrained GAN for High-Resolution Proxy Estimation of Urban Air Pollution: A Rapid Assessment Tool for Urban Planning

Call for Proposal

- Development of Conceptual Design and Cost Estimation for Decentralized Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment Solutions in Korail Settlement, Dhaka
- Development of a District-Wide WASH Sector Development and Investment Plan for Cox's Bazar
- Long-Term Arrangement for Resilient and Inclusive WASH Services in Host Communities in Cox's Bazar
- Technical Support for WASH Infrastructure Design, Optimization and Performance Evaluation in Rohingya Camps and Host Communities
- Expansion and Renovation of the Isolation Unit at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka
- Technical Support for Community Engagement, Advocacy and Capacity Development for Childhood-Onset NCDs
- Research on the Impact of Climate Migration and Displacement on Health in Bangladesh
- Strengthening Tobacco Cessation in Bangladesh through the Establishment of a National Quitline
- Development and Dissemination of the Meena Package to Promote Social and Behaviour Change (2026–2027)
- Applied Research on Climate, Heat and Healthy Ageing in the Western Pacific

Job Opportunities

- Senior Research Officer
- Project Officer
- WHO Consultant
- National Consultant
- Technical Officer
- Manager
- Technical Officer
- SSA - NCD Prevention and Management Officer
- Associate
- Intervention Officer
- Junior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
- Officer (Health)
- Specialist
- Sector Specialist

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Newspaper and Media Update



Dhaka ranks 7th among most polluted cities with ‘unhealthy’ air



Measles outbreak: Death toll reaches 1,155 as eight die in 24 hours



Dhaka tops dengue cases, deaths



Dhaka records ‘moderate’ air quality this morning



July sees highest dengue deaths in 6 months



Dhaka ranks 4th among world's most polluted cities today



DSCC observes monthly Cleaning Day, holds waste awareness rally



Dhaka lost 83% of surface water in 250 years



Suhrawardy swamped with dengue patients

More News

National

- **TIB calls for halting WASA Gulshan housing project**
- **Plug measles jab gaps urgently**
- **We expect visible changes in health sector within one to one-and-a-half years**
- **Upazila hospitals set for even bigger upgrade**
- **Plastic waste clogs Khulna drains**
- **Heavy rain, high tides leave Chattogram under water again**
- **Why Dhaka's waterlogging crisis has little to do with heavy rain**
- **Dhaka's air quality remains moderate today**
- **Dhaka must reclaim its lost water bodies**
- **Summer Flow 2026: Two days to move, create, connect and heal**
- **1 in 5 people over 40 face cardiovascular risk in 2 coastal upazilas: Study**
- **Rethinking daily issues for a greener future**
- **Turning waste into power in Bangladesh: Why ambition outpaces readiness**

International

- **The flat-pack skyscraper: how wood can shape the cities of the future – podcast**
- **The Guardian view on London’s social housing: pumping billions into the economy every yearIn London, children’s lungs grow faster as traffic pollution falls**
- **Coping with 54C heat: Delhi slum diaries detail living in extreme temperatures**
- **Air pollution affects us all, but there is a way we can breathe easier**
- **‘Waste colonialism’ – the Turkish city carrying the weight of Britain’s pollution problem**
- **Reckless ebike users put all of us at risk**
- **With climate change threatening a generation, we need to scale solutions now**
- **Climate-Resilient Urban Health Partnership Announced**
- **Mortality during heatwaves: Key housing, inequality and hospital factors remain overlooked**
- **New flood risks hamper Himalayan rescue work**
- **Habagat floods 65 Iloilo City barangays, affects over 3,200 residents**