

Bi weekly knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session

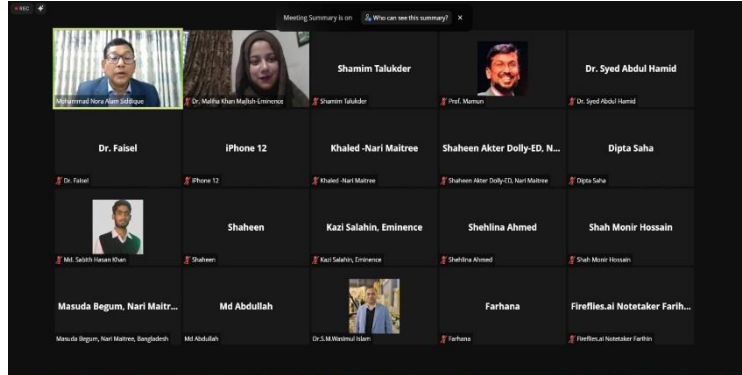
Date: 12 February 2024 (Monday)

Time: 20:00 – 21:30 BST(GMT+6)

Topic: Urban Health and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Seminar Minutes

The Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN) hosted its Second Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on Urban Health and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on February 12, 2024, from 8.00 PM (BST) to 9.30 PM (BST) online via Zoom platform. *Dr. Maliha Khan Majlish* (Senior Technical and Development Officer, Eminence) facilitated the gathering.



Seminar Agendas:

- Welcome speech
- Presentation on “Urban Health: An Overview” and Nari Maitree’s 40 years’ journey on “Urban Health & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh”
- Panel Discussion followed by Open Discussion/ Q&A Session
- Speech by the Chief Guest
- Closing remarks and next step

Seminar Discussions:

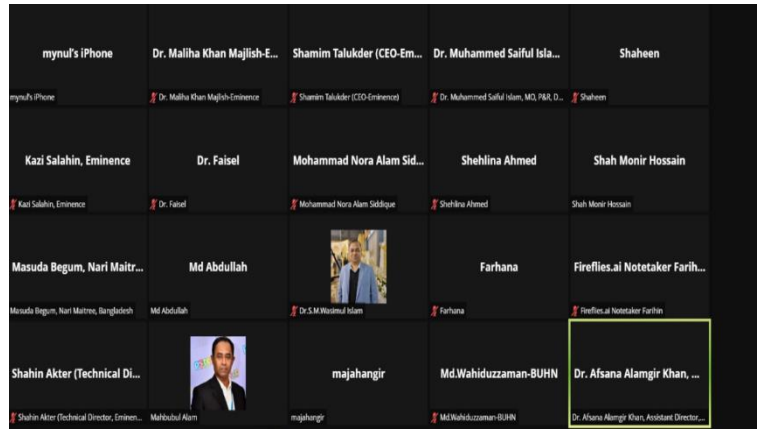
SN	Discussion Points	Seminar Discussion
1	Welcome Speech	The seminar commenced as <i>Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder</i> (CEO, Eminence), Member Secretary of BUHN, extended a warm greeting to the participants and initiated the proceedings with a welcoming address, establishing the overall atmosphere for the seminar.
2	Presentation on “Urban Health: An Overview”	<i>Dr. Afsana Alamgir Khan</i> , Assistant Director (Project Co-ordination), DGHS, MoHFW, outlined future plans for development through emphasizing the importance of comprehensive facilities, primary care, public health, emergency services, health insurance, and a robust information system. Moreover, outlining challenges such as government coordination, limited resources, traffic, pollution, climate change, healthcare and nutritional disparities, she proposed the Urban General Practitioner Centre to ease pressure on specialized hospitals while addressing healthcare access issues during urbanization.

	<p>Presentation on Nari Maitree's 40 years Journey on "Urban Health & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" in Bangladesh</p>	<p><i>Masuda Begum</i>, Director of Health and Nutrition at Nari Maitri, Bangladesh, passionately presented her organization's dedication for promoting equality and empowering women through health projects, focusing on climate change and urban health. She underscored the crucial need for urban health stewardship, urging the Government of the people's republic of Bangladesh to allocate essential funds for Universal Health Coverage by 2030, while emphasizing the significance of coordination among ministries and development partners.</p>
3	<p>Panel Discussion</p>	<p><i>Prof. Dr. Shah Monir Hossain</i>, President, BNCDF discussed the challenges in the urban health sector, including the need for strategic planning and the role of the private sector. He proposed to set up an urban health center model for primary health care for every fifty thousand people in urban area. He also emphasized the importance of a multi-faceted approach, stewardship to urban health, while referring to the impact of pollution and traffic conditions on health.</p> <p><i>Dr. Shehlina Ahmed</i>, Consultant, Unicef, discussed the role of pharmacy shops in providing healthcare in the urban context, stressing the importance of collaboration with the private sector in NGOs to improve service provision. Discussing the benefits of pharmacy shops, she also discussed the importance of organizing seminars.</p>
4	<p>Open Discussion/ Q&A Session</p>	<p><i>VFF Mohammad Abdullah</i>, Individual Consultant, thanked the presenters and discussed the challenges and importance of integrating urban health into the healthcare system. He also discussed the role of local government in innovative thinking for coordination.</p> <p><i>Dr. Afsana Alamgir Khan</i>, Assistant Director (Project Co-ordination), DGHS, MoHFW, confirmed that they have included urban health in the operation plan and are working towards its sustainability.</p> <p><i>Dr. Abu Jamil Faisal</i>, Chairman & Treasurer, Health21, emphasized the need to revise the policy of the health municipality and ensure everyone's responsibility in implementing it.</p> <p><i>Dr. S.M. Wasimul Islam</i>, Program Officer, UPHCSDP-2, DNCC stressed the need for strengthening infrastructure at the ward level despite budgetary constraints and highlighted the importance of primary health care.</p>
5	<p>Speech by the Chief Guest</p>	<p><i>Mohammad Nora Alam Siddique</i>, Joint Secretary LGRD&Co stressed the importance of cooperation between government ministries and local governments, sustainability in public services, and the potential of local government institutions to provide primary health care. He highlighted the importance of control and coordination mechanisms between the Local</p>

		Government Division and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, suggesting possible rethinking and revision of the current health strategy for better effectiveness.
7	Closing remarks and next step	<i>Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir</i> (Unicef, Bangladesh), Technical Support Team Member of BUHN, thanked all participants for attending the seminar and proposed reviving the strategic plan with ownership from both Local Government Division and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and announced plans for future virtual discussion sessions on health-related topics.

Seminar Recommendations:

1. Establish the Urban General Practitioner Centre to alleviate pressure on specialized hospitals
2. Allotment for Universal Health Coverage by 2030, underscoring the need for financial support from the government
3. Recognition of the coordination among ministries and development partners as a crucial element in achieving Sustainable Development Goals
4. Keep provision of an urban health center model for primary care, along with stressing collaboration with the private sector, contributing to a comprehensive strategy for urban health
5. Revision of the strategic plan with joint ownership from the Local Government Division and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, demonstrating commitment to effective and sustainable healthcare planning



Attendance Sheet of the Seminar:

Following attendees from BUHN, DGHS and other partner organizations joined the Virtual Seminar-

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Mohammad Nora Alam Siddique	Joint Secretary	LGRD&Co
2	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder	Chief Executive Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
3	Masuda Begum	Director (Health and Nutrition)	Nari Maitree
4	Dr. Afsana Alamgir Khan	Assistant Director	DGHS, MoHFW
5	Prof. Dr. Shah Monir Hossain	President	BNCDF
6	Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir	Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
7	Shaheen Akter Dolly	Executive Director	Nari Maitree
8	Dr. Syed Kamrul Islam	Deputy Director	UHC, DGHS
9	Dr. Md. Saiful Islam	MO	DGHS
10	Dr. S.M. Wasimul Islam	Program Officer	UPHCSDP-2, DNCC
11	VFF Mohammad Abdullah	Consultant	Unicef Bangladesh
12	Dr. Abu Jamil Faisal	Chairman & Treasurer	Health21
13	Dr. Shehlina Ahmed	Consultant	Unicef, Bangladesh
14	Mynul Hasan Sohel	General Secretary	Dhaka Reporters Unity
15	Dr. Syed Abdul Hamid	Professor, Institute of Health Economics	Dhaka University
16	Mahbubul Alam	Head of Programs	PSTC
17	Prof. Khondaker A. Mamun	Founder	CMED
18	Khaled Bin Yousuf		Nari Maitree
19	Dr. Farhana Rahman		BRAC
20	Dr. Shahin Akter	Technical Operation Director	Eminence
21	Kazi Fayzus Salahin	Senior Data Analyst	Eminence
22	Ummay Farihin Sultana	Senior Research and Knowledge Management Officer	Eminence
23	Maliha Khan Majlish	Senior Technical & Development Officer	Eminence
24	Sakera Khatun Mony	Nutrition Officer	Eminence
25	Md. Wahiduzzaman	Urban Health Officer	Eminence
26	Md. Dipta Saha	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
27	Md. Sabith Hasan Khan	Health and Development Officer	Eminence