

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Bi weekly knowledge sharing Virtual Seminar Session

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 20:00 – 21:30 BST(GMT+6)

Topic: Urban Health and Climate Resilience

### Seminar Minutes

The Third Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on Urban Health and Climate Resilience, organized by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN), took place on March 5, 2024, from 8:00 PM (BST) to 9:30 PM (BST) through the Zoom platform. The event was led by *Dr. Maliha Khan Majlish*, Senior Technical and Development Officer at Eminence.

### Seminar Agendas:

- Welcome speech
- Presentation on “Urban Health Program: CARE Bangladesh Experience” and “Enhancing Climate-Resilient Urban Health 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. Magrub Jahangir</i> , Health Officer, UNICEF, Technical Support Team Member of BUHN, extended a warm greeting to the participants and highlighted the critical nature of the topic, particularly in relation to climate change and vulnerability in Bangladesh.
2	Presentation on “Urban Health Program: CARE Bangladesh Experience”	<i>Dr. Ikhtiar Uddin Khandaker</i> , Director (Health Program), CARE Bangladesh highlighted the organization's urban shift, particularly in the garment industry, showcasing impactful projects that improved healthcare, working conditions, and reduced absenteeism, emphasizing involvement of factory management and effective project implementation, along with the formation of community support groups; these efforts resulted in reduced absenteeism, turnover, increased productivity and quality, also underlining the importance of gender empowerment for female workers and support for migrants.
	Presentation on “Enhancing Climate-Resilient Urban Health in Bangladesh”	<i>Fatema Showkot Jahan Rojy</i> , Senior Deputy Director at Partners in Health and Development (PHD), presented on the escalating impact of climate change on urban health in Bangladesh, emphasizing the heightened prevalence of diseases like dengue and asthma in densely populated areas due to environmental factors; highlighted challenges for women, migrants, and vulnerable groups, noting the absence of a specific focus on climate-resilient health systems in government policies and proposed a comprehensive operational framework, incorporating leadership,

		governance, a skilled climate-informed workforce, and risk assessment, underscoring the importance of client feedback and continuous quality improvement, highlighting the potential impact of climate change on urban health and outlined future initiatives including climate-induced health risk assessments in urban slums and discussed ongoing health resilience projects funded by Pathfinder International and Swedish SIDA and UNICEF.
3	Panel Discussion	<p><i>Professor Syed Abdul Hamid</i> from the Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka, commending CARE Bangladesh for its impactful and cost-effective work on climate change and health, expressing concern about the inadequate attention to health in policy documents and urged policymakers to heed suggestions from discussions.</p> <p><i>Dr. Sharmin Mizan</i>, Deputy Project Director (Service Delivery) Project Management Unit, UPHCSDP-II, emphasized in her discussion, the importance of integrating public health with infrastructure to mitigate climate impacts in urban areas, advocating for vulnerability assessments in construction and projects to ensure resilience against natural disasters and discussing the Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery Project's role, featuring initiatives such as rainwater harvesting, energy conservation, and knowledge sharing to address climate-related health issues.</p>
4	Open Discussion/ Q&A Session	<p><i>Prof. Khondaker A. Mamun</i>, Founder, CMED Health suggested the creation of a mapping system to identify areas of expertise within organizations and emphasized the need for initiatives to combat climate change and improve health.</p> <p><i>Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaqul Alam</i>, National Consultant, Unicef thanked BUHN for inviting him and asked a specific question to Fatema Showkot Jahan Rojy: that what are the problems and challenges faced while implementing the 'Green Hospital' initiative especially in regards to the service providers?</p> <p><i>Fatema Showkot Jahan Rojy</i>, Senior Deputy Director at Partners in Health and Development (PHD) shared that they are in the designing phase of the 'Green Hospital' initiative in the Mongla Upazila Health Complex and also highlighted the lack of direct policy guidelines for making communities resilient to climate change.</p> <p><i>Dr. Jatan Bhowmick</i>, Project Director, Save the Children sought clarity on the implementation of health service delivery at the district and village levels.</p> <p><i>Dr. Magrub Jahangir</i>, Health Officer, UNICEF clarified that while Local Government Division have the primary responsibility for urban primary healthcare, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is not precluded from providing urban health services.</p>

		<p><i>Emranul Haq</i>, Consortium Programme Manager, Concern Worldwide emphasized the importance of raising awareness and initiating discussions about urban health and climate change resilience in Bangladesh.</p> <p><i>Shaikh Masudul Alam</i>, Program Director of Bangladesh Health Watch, stressed the importance of clarity in the government's mechanism for urban health and recommended the inclusion of specific recommendations in the upcoming Operational Plan (OP) for the benefit of the urban population.</p>
5	Speech by the Chief Guest	<p>The chief guest, <i>Md. Ashadul Islam</i>, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), underscored the importance of innovation in healthcare and environmental efforts, proposing the creation of a platform to address emerging issues, emphasizing healthcare's delicate nature, and advocating for collaboration with the local government and Ministry of Health, while suggesting the formation of a technical group to develop recommendations for the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development &amp; Co-operatives.</p>
6	Closing remarks and next step	<p><i>Dr. Abu Jamil Faisal</i>, Chairman &amp; Treasurer, Health 21, thanked all participants for attending the seminar and proposed the formation of a small technical group to review ideas and recommend them to the MoHFW &amp; MoLGRD&amp;Co, suggested involving representative from the Ministry of Environment, Forest &amp; Climate Change in future discussions, and emphasized the need to develop plans and programs addressing urban health and climate change issues.</p>

## Seminar Decisions:

1. Promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among organizations working on urban health and climate resilience, possibly through the creation of a mapping system to identify areas of expertise within different organizations
2. Integrate climate-resilient health systems into government policies, ensuring a focus on leadership, governance, a skilled climate-informed workforce, and risk assessment
3. Push for vulnerability assessments in construction and projects to ensure resilience against natural disasters, with a specific mention of such considerations in the Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery Project
4. Develop direct policy guidelines for making communities resilient to climate change, especially focusing on service providers' challenges?
5. Emphasize community engagement and awareness programs, aiming to address challenges faced during the implementation of health service delivery at the district and village levels
6. Formation of a technical group to develop recommendations, establish such a group involving representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, with a focus on reviewing ideas and proposing actionable plans addressing urban health and climate change issues

## Attendance Sheet of the Seminar:

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

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Md. Ashadul Islam	Former Secretary	MoHFW
2	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder	Chief Executive Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
3	Sidney Caccioppoli	Co-Ordinator & Administrative Support Staff	International Society of Urban Health (ISUH)
4	Dr. Sharmin Mizan	Deputy Project Director	UPHCSDP-II
5	Fatema Showkot Jahan Rojy	Senior Project Director	Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
6	Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir	Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
7	Dr. Md. Enamul Haque	Directorate General	HEU, DGHS
8	Dr. Ikhtiar Uddin Khandaker	Director (Health Program)	CARE Bangladesh
9	Dr. Abu Jamil Faisal	Chairman & Treasurer	Health21
10	Dr. Jatan Bhowmick	Project Director	Save the Children
11	Emranul Haq	Consortium Programme Manager	Concern Worldwide
12	Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaqul Alom	National Consultant	Unicef
13	Masuda Begum	Director (Health and Nutrition)	Nari Maitree
14	Mynul Hasan Sohel	General Secretary	Dhaka Reporters Unity
15	Dr. Syed Abdul Hamid	Professor, Institute of Health Economics	Dhaka University
16	Mahbulul Alam	Head of Programs	PSTC
17	Prof. Khondaker A. Mamun	Founder	CMED
18	Md. Saiful Islam	Medical Officer	DGHS
19	Shaikh Masudul Alam	Program Director	Bangladesh Health Watch
20	S M Sharif Ahmed	Assistant Director	PHD
21	As- Saba Hossain	Medical Doctor	ICDDR'B
22	Dilara Ahmed Choudhury	Program Officer	RTM International
23	Khondker Zakiur Rahman	Technical Officer	UNFPA
24	Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman	Team Leader	PHD
25	Khaled Bin Yousuf		Nari Maitree
26	Dr. Farhana Rahman		BRAC

27	Chopola Rozario		PHD
28	Ayub Khan		
29	Mostafizur Rahman		
30	Tanjina Farhana Upoma	UNV Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
31	Dr. Shahin Akter	Technical Operation Director	Eminence
32	Kazi Fayzus Salahin	Senior Data Analyst	Eminence
33	Ummay Farihin Sultana	Senior Research and Knowledge Management Officer	Eminence
34	Maliha Khan Majlish	Senior Technical & Development Officer	Eminence
35	Md. Wahiduzzaman	Urban Health Officer	Eminence
36	Md. Dipta Saha	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
37	Md. Sabith Hasan Khan	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
38	Atia Munni	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
39	Mash-oodur Rahman	Research & Communication Officer	Eminence