

Bi weekly knowledge sharing Virtual Seminar Session

Date: January 14, 2025 (Tuesday)

Time: 16:00 – 17:30 BST(GMT+6)

Topic: Urban Health and Nutrition

Seminar Minutes

The **3rd** Bi-Weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on "**Urban Health and Nutrition**", organized by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN), was successfully held on January 14, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (BST) via the Zoom platform. This engaging and insightful event was expertly moderated by *Ummay Farihin Sultana, Project Manager, Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN)*. The seminar focused on the pressing challenges of urban health and nutrition in Bangladesh. Participants delved into critical discussions highlighting the need for a robust knowledge base, equitable access to healthcare services, and strengthened collaboration across ministries and stakeholders. The session concluded with an emphatic call for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to address these challenges effectively, emphasizing the importance of enhanced coordination and the sharing of best practices among all involved parties.

Seminar Agendas:

- Welcome speech
- Presentation 1 on “Urban Health and Nutrition in Bangladesh”
- Presentation 2 on “Nutritional Mainstreaming Initiative Assessment of the User and Provider
- Perspectives under Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project-Additional Financing (UPHCSDP-AF)”
- Panel discussion
- Open Discussion/ Q&A Session
- Speech by the Session Chair
- Closing remarks and next step

Seminar Discussions:

SN	Discussion Points	Seminar Discussion
1	Welcome Speech	The seminar began with <i>Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir, Health Officer (Urban) at UNICEF Bangladesh</i> , extending a warm greeting to the participants and addressing the challenges of urban health and nutrition in Bangladesh, including rapid urbanization, overcrowded slums, inadequate WASH services, limited healthcare access, and immunization inequities.
2	Presentation on “Urban Health and Nutrition in Bangladesh”	<i>Dr. Sohana Shafique, Project Coordinator, Urban Health, Health Systems and Population Studies Division, icddr;b. Bangladesh</i> , emphasized the critical need for addressing infant mortality, low immunization, and malnutrition in urban slums while advocating for stronger governance, inter-ministerial collaboration, and sustainable health financing.

	Presentation on “Nutritional Mainstreaming Initiative Assessment of the User and Provider Perspectives under Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project -Additional Financing (UPHCSDP-AF)”	<i>Dr. Shahin Akter, Technical Operation Director, Health & Nutrition, Eminence Associates for Social Development, emphasized the need for strengthened nutrition counseling, enhanced coordination, and increased resource allocation within urban primary healthcare services to address malnutrition challenges among vulnerable populations in Bangladesh</i>
3	Panel Discussion	<i>Md. Tareq Hasan, Project Manager, Maternal Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), shared their impactful initiatives in urban health and nutrition, including market infrastructure development, plastic reduction, capacity building for food safety and SMEs, and pioneering maternal micronutrient supplementation through innovative, market-based approaches.</i>
3	Open Discussion/ Q&A Session	<i>Md. Tareq Hasan, Project Manager, Maternal Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), inquired about accessing urban nutrition surveillance data, and Dr. Sohana Shafique, Project Coordinator, Urban Health, Health Systems and Population Studies Division, icddr;b. Bangladesh, clarified that while not currently available, it will be accessible in the future, along with findings from their food systems studies relevant to urban health and nutrition.</i>
5	Speech by the Session Chair	<i>Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid, Joint Secretary (World Health Branch), Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the people's republic of Bangladesh, emphasized the need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to address urban health and nutrition challenges in Bangladesh, highlighting the importance of prevention, intersectoral collaboration, a functional referral system, and integrating inputs from diverse stakeholders under a unified platform.</i>
6	Closing remarks and next step	<i>Dr. Monira Parveen, Nutrition Officer, Unicef Bangladesh highlighted the need for sharing best practices to improve urban health and nutrition services and expressed hope that the Bangladesh Urban Health Network-BUHN could play a pivotal role in facilitating this, concluding with gratitude to the organizers and participants.</i>

Seminar Decisions:

1. To share research findings and reports with interested participants upon request to facilitate knowledge exchange on urban health and nutrition.
2. To explore ways to make urban health and demographic surveillance data more accessible to policymakers for better decision-making.
3. To incorporate indicators on obesity and lifestyle-related issues in future urban health and nutrition studies to address emerging health concerns in urban populations.
4. To increase budget allocations for nutrition activities and incorporate dedicated nutrition counselors in the Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery Project (UPHCSDP-II) to improve urban nutrition services.
5. To strengthen coordination between City Corporations, the Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery Project, and National Nutrition Services to improve urban nutrition outcomes.
6. To organize future seminars by Bangladesh Urban Health Network to share effective urban health and nutrition programs and best practices among stakeholders.

Attendance Sheet of the Seminar:

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

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid	Joint Secretary (World Health Branch)	HSD, MoHFW
2	Dr. Md. Samiul Huda	Health Economics Unit	MoHFW
3	Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir	Health Officer (Urban)	UNICEF Bangladesh
4	Dr. Monira Parveen	Nutrition Officer	UNICEF Bangladesh
5	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder	Chief Executive Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
6	Dr. Shahin Akter	Technical Operation Director	Eminence Associates for Social Development
7	Dr. Sohana Shafique	Project Coordinator	icddr, b. Bangladesh
8	Md. Tareq Hasan	Project Manager	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
9	Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaqul Alom	National Consultant	Unicef
10	Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman	Team Leader	PHD
11	Masuda Begum	Director (Health and Nutrition)	Nari Maitree
12	Dr. Nazia Rahman	PC-CQI	Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
13	Monju Maria Palma	Deputy Director	World Vision Bangladesh
14	Eliza Chambugang	PC	MNCH
15	Mohammad Ihtesham Hassan	Research Associate	PPRC
16	Shaikh Masudul Alam	Program Director	Bangladesh Health Watch
17	Fazle Rabbi		
18	Maksedul Alam		
19	Abu Sayeed Hussain Fahim		
20	Tanjina Farhana Upoma	UNV Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
21	Ummay Farihin Sultana	Senior Research and Knowledge Management Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
22	Maliha Khan Majlish	Senior Technical & Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
23	Md. Wahiduzzaman	Urban Health Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
24	Dr. Md. Asifur Rahman	Health Manager	Eminence Associates for Social Development
25	Mostafizur Rahman	Senior Program Implementation Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
26	Mohammad Mahtabuddin	Communication Manager	Eminence Associates for Social Development
27	Md. Jahangir Alam	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO)	Eminence Associates for Social Development

28	Md. Dipta Saha	Health and Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
29	Md. Sabith Hasan Khan	Health and Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
30	Md. Sabith Hasan Khan	Health and Development Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
31	Mash-oodur Rahman	Research & Communication Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
32	Abhijeet Kumar Singh	Research & Communication Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
33	Abir Chowdhury	IT Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
34	Md. Shoriful Islam	Graphic Designer	Eminence Associates for Social Development

Snapshot of the Seminar:

