

4th Bi weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session

Date: 16th March 2024 (Saturday)

Time: 11:30 – 13:00 BST(GMT+6)

Topic: Urban Health and Environment Health

Seminar Minutes

The Fourth Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on Urban Health and Environment Health, organized by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN), took place on March 16, 2024, from 11:30 AM (BST) to 01:00 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 and Environmental Health” and Urban Health and Environmental Health “Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-2nd Phase”
- 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>Mostaque Ahmed</i> , Director, Eminence Associates for Social Development extended a warm greeting to the participants and briefly highlighted the critical nature of the topic, particularly in relation to environmental health and vulnerability in Bangladesh.
2	Presentation on “Urban Health and Environmental Health”	<i>Dr. Ziaul Ahsan</i> , Project Director, Ipas Bangladesh addressed environmental health concerns in urban regions, including healthcare, air pollution, water safety, sanitation, and waste management, spotlighting Prism Bangladesh Foundation's medical waste treatment plant in collaboration with Dhaka City Corporation and international entities, alongside Ipas Bangladesh efforts in medical waste management within project-backed healthcare facilities, while advocating for solutions like creating a sustained coordination mechanism between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives and leveraging social media for health advocacy.
	Presentation on Urban Health and Environmental Health “Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-2nd Phase”	<i>Zakera Hannan Rubayat</i> , Project Manager, PSTC, UPHCSDP-II, is poised to deliver her presentation on the Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery Project, aiming to enhance health and social support for marginalized communities through a public-private partnership, detailing the accessibility, affordability, and community engagement aspects of the healthcare delivery model, including the establishment of satellite clinics by Dhaka South City Corporation and provision of complimentary services to the

		underprivileged, while emphasizing the significance of upholding clinical standards and the involvement of consultants and service providers.
3	Panel Discussion	<p><i>Gawher Nayeem Wahra</i>, Writer and Researcher emphasized the necessity of decentralizing urban healthcare and addressed the obstacles encountered in Dhaka, notably air pollution and insufficient green spaces, while underscoring the repercussions of rapid urbanization on children and mental health, proposing potential measures such as advocating against acacia trees due to their association with asphyxia.</p> <p><i>A.F.M Alauddin Khan</i>, Project Director, UPHCSDP-II, emphasized in his discussion, the importance of prioritizing primary healthcare in urban area and the involvement of local governments, supported by development partners like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB), while recognizing the challenges in managing this task and advocating for heightened collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and local authorities.</p>
4	Open Discussion/ Q&A Session	<p><i>Dr. Jatan Bhowmick</i>, Project Director at Save the Children, raised inquiries regarding the reinforcement of certain government outdoor dispensaries under the supervision of the DG Health, highlighting the potential for a system strengthening intervention to improve coordination between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, offering an opportunity to incorporate valuable insights into the upcoming Operational Plan (OP).</p> <p><i>Dr. Sharmin Mizan</i> Deputy Project Director, UPHCSDPII underscored the significance of medical waste management in infection prevention within their project, emphasizing its execution via presentations and services at health centers and satellite clinics, while stressing the necessity of coordination between the Directorate General of Health Services and the Local Government Department, alongside the pivotal role of primary health care in Bangladesh's health sector, noting the financial constraints of the government and advocating for upgrading outdoor dispensers and implementing sustainable waste management solutions.</p>
5	Speech by the Chief Guest	The chief guest, <i>Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam</i> , Director, NIPSOM, MoHFW, expressed concern over the current lack of coordination and initiative in addressing urban primary healthcare challenges, but anticipates that the forthcoming sector program will rectify these issues, proposing a specialized urban healthcare setup and dedicated urban outpatient services, alongside advocating for the inclusion of urban primary healthcare and urban outpatient services in the Essential Service Package, while also highlighting the importance of addressing various urban health issues such as school health, TB control, maternal and child health,

		HIV/AIDS, drug control, and environmental health concerns like air and noise pollution, lead, mercury, and other hazardous particles, with hopes that these urban challenges will be addressed in the upcoming sector program.
6	Closing remarks and next step	<i>Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder</i> , CEO, Eminence and Member Secretary of BUHN thanked all participants for attending the seminar with emphasizing the importance of working together to solve health problems addressing urban health and environmental health issues.

Seminar Decisions:

1. Establishing a sustained coordination mechanism between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives to address urban healthcare challenges effectively
2. Integrating effective medical waste management solutions in urban area, possibly leveraging partnerships with organizations like Prism Bangladesh Foundation for medical waste treatment plants
3. Strategies for decentralizing urban healthcare, potentially involving local governments and development partners like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB) to enhance primary healthcare services in urban areas
4. Address the need for upgrading outdoor dispensaries, exploring opportunities for system strengthening interventions to improve coordination between relevant health authorities and incorporate insights into the Operational Plan (OP).
5. Ensure the forthcoming sector program incorporates various urban health issues, including medical waste management, environmental health concerns, and primary healthcare accessibility, as highlighted by the discussions, with a focus on their integration into the Essential Service Package

Attendance Sheet of the Seminar:

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

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam	Director	NIPSOM, MoHFW
2	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder	Chief Executive Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
3	Gawher Nayeem Wahra	Writer and Researcher	
4	A.F.M Alauddin Khan	Project Director	UPHCSDP-II
5	Dr. Sharmin Mizan	Deputy Project Director	UPHCSDP-II
6	Zakera Hannan Rubayat	Project Manager	PSTC, UPHCSDP-II
7	Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir	Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
8	Dr. Ziaul Ahsan	Project Director	Ipas Bangladesh
9	Mostaque Ahmed	Director	Eminence
10	Mahbubul Alam	Head of Programs	PSTC
11	Dr. Jatan Bhowmick	Project Director	Save the Children
12	Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman	Team Leader	PHD
13	VVF Md. Abdullah	Freelance Consultant	Individual
14	Dr. Farhana Rahman		BRAC
15	Tanjina Farhana Upoma	UNV Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
16	Dr. Shahin Akter	Technical Operation Director	Eminence
17	Kazi Fayzus Salahin	Senior Data Analyst	Eminence
18	Ummay Farihin Sultana	Senior Research and Knowledge Management Officer	Eminence
19	Maliha Khan Majlish	Senior Technical & Development Officer	Eminence
20	Md. Wahiduzzaman	Urban Health Officer	Eminence
21	Md. Sabith Hasan Khan	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
22	Mash-oodur Rahman	Research & Communication Officer	Eminence