

5th Bi weekly knowledge sharing Virtual Seminar Session

Date: 4th April 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 11:30 – 13:00 BST(GMT+6)

Topic: Urban Health and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Seminar Minutes

The Fifth Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on Urban Health and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), organized by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN), took place on April 4, 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 “Ma Jaan: solving referral challenges for urban poor to access emergency obstetric and newborn care in Bangladesh” & “Health and Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH)”
- 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. Dewan Md. Emdadul Hoque</i> , Health Manager, UNICEF extended a warm greeting to the participants and emphasized the importance of urban health for achieving SDG targets in Bangladesh.
2	Presentation on “Ma Jaan: solving referral challenges for urban poor to access emergency obstetric and newborn care in Bangladesh”	<i>Md. Azmal Hossain</i> , the UNFPA Program Analyst for Urban Health, presented insights on water, sanitation, and hygiene, discussing innovation, policy testing, data consolidation, referral challenges, affordable healthcare access, technology's role, 24/7 communication, “Ma Jaan” app for emergency referrals, skilled midwives and drivers, and ensuring quality care and respect for women during childbirth.
	Presentation on “Health and Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH)”	<i>Partha Hefaz Shaikh</i> , Director- Programmes and Policy Advocacy, WaterAid Bangladesh, emphasized the benefits of the WaterAid program, stressing the significance of universal access to safe wash facilities, and advocated for improving healthcare and promoting hygiene in Bangladesh through enhanced WASH service delivery capacity and technological applications.
3	Panel Discussion	<i>Dr. Dibalok Singha</i> , Executive Director, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) addressed challenges in inclusive sanitation and public health services in Bangladesh, stressing increased budget allocation and city corporation coordination for effective sanitation management, while he underscored the necessity of a

		<p>strong community-level public health system, focusing on data collection, budget processes, and overcoming resource constraints for universal health coverage by 2030.</p> <p><i>Dr. Md. Tajuddin Sikder</i>, Professor & Former chairman, Department of Public Health & Informatics, Jahangirnagar University, delved into enhancing urban healthcare accessibility, leveraging artificial intelligence, integrating apps into transport, sharing health system data, advocating for decentralized waste management, and emphasizing urban architecture and disease prevalence integration for effective waste management planning.</p>
4	Open Discussion/ Q&A Session	<p><i>A.F.M Alauddin Khan</i>, Project Director, UPHCSDP-II, underscored the critical need to prioritize primary healthcare in urban areas, particularly for slum and migrated populations, emphasizing coordinated efforts between governmental and non-governmental organizations to reduce urban population out-of-pocket expenses and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.</p>
5	Speech by the Chief Guest	<p><i>Dr. Malay Choudhury</i>, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, spoke as the chief guest, discussing the roles of development partners, emphasizing the significance of urban primary healthcare and water supply, sanitation & waste management, and exploring opportunities for government-stakeholders coordination.</p>
6	Closing remarks and next step	<p><i>Dr. Shahin Akter</i>, Technical Operation Director at Eminence, expressed gratitude to all attendees underlining the critical necessity of budget allocation for the development of slum population in urban areas, while advocating for improved WASH facilities, affordable transport for referrals, accessible water supply, cost-effective waste management with resource conversion, and stressing the importance of coordinated efforts between local governments and institutes for urban sustainability.</p>

Seminar Decisions:

1. Implementing investment in urban health innovation entails allocating resources to implement technologies such as the "Ma Jaan" app for emergency referrals, providing training for skilled midwives and drivers, and integrating technology for 24/7 communication in healthcare.
2. Deciding on budget allocation for WASH initiatives and utilizing technological applications to enhance service delivery capacity.
3. Strengthening community-level public health systems, it's imperative to increase budget allocations, enhance data collection processes, and improve coordination between city corporations.
4. Implementing artificial intelligence in urban healthcare involves leveraging advanced technologies, such as integrating AI-powered apps into transport systems, to enhance accessibility and improve overall healthcare delivery.

- Prioritizing primary healthcare for vulnerable urban populations, allocating resources appropriately, and fostering collaboration between governmental and non-governmental entities to realize the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Attendance Sheet of the Seminar:

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

SN	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Dr. Dewan Md. Emdadul Hoque	Health Manager	UNICEF
2	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder	Chief Executive Officer	Eminence Associates for Social Development
3	Md. Azmal Hossain	Program Analyst	UNFPA
4	A.F.M Alauddin Khan	Project Director	UPHCSDP-II
5	Partha Hefaz Shaikh	Director- Programmes and Policy Advocacy	WaterAid Bangladesh
6	Dr. Dibalok Singha	Executive Director	Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK)
7	Dr. Margub Aref Jahangir	Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
8	Dr. Malay Choudhury	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture
9	Mostaque Ahmed	Director	Eminence
10	Mahbubul Alam	Head of Programs	PSTC
11	Dr. Md. Tajuddin Sikder	Professor & Former chairman	Department of Public Health & Informatics, Jahangirnagar University
12	Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman	Team Leader	PHD
13	Masuda Begum	Director (Health and Nutrition)	Nari Maitree
14	Dr. Ziaul Ahsan	Project Director	Ipas Bangladesh
15	Dr. Kamrul Islam	DD & PM	UHC, DGHS
16	Toslim Uddin Khan	Managing Director & CEO	Social Marketing Company (SMC)
17	S M Sharif Ahmed	Assistant Director	PHD
18	Dr. Farzana Taher Munmun	DPM	UHC, DGHS
19	Tanjina Farhana Upoma	UNV Health Officer	Unicef Bangladesh
20	Dr. Shahin Akter	Technical Operation Director	Eminence
21	Uttam Roy	Project Manager	Eminence

22	Ummay Farihin Sultana	Senior Research and Knowledge Management Officer	Eminence
23	Maliha Khan Majlish	Senior Technical & Development Officer	Eminence
24	Md. Neamul Islam	Business Development Officer	Eminence
25	Md. Wahiduzzaman	Urban Health Officer	Eminence
26	Dipta Saha	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
27	Md. Sabith Hasan Khan	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
28	Atia Munni	Health and Development Officer	Eminence
29	Mash-oodur Rahman	Research & Communication Officer	Eminence
30	Abir Chowdhury	IT Officer	Eminence