

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 Report

The Fourth Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar Session on Urban Health and Environmental Health, hosted by the Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN) on March 16, 2024, served as a pivotal platform for addressing pressing concerns regarding urban healthcare and environmental sustainability in Bangladesh, honoring *Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam*, Director at NIPSOM, MoHFW, as the Chief Guest, *Gawher Nayeem Wahra*, Writer and Researcher and *A.F.M Alauddin Khan*, Project Director, UPHCSDP-II, as the panelist. *Dr. Ziaul Ahsan*, Project Director at Ipas Bangladesh, and *Zakera Hannan Rubayat*, Project Manager at PSTC, UPHCSDP-II, gave presentation on "Urban Health and Environmental Health" and "Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-2nd Phase." respectively. *Dr. Maliha Khan Majlish*, Senior Technical and Development Officer at Eminence, spearheaded the event, which unfolded over a structured agenda encompassing a range of critical topics and discussions.

Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Eminence Associates for Social Development, commenced the seminar with a warm welcome speech, underscoring the urgent need to address environmental health challenges and vulnerabilities prevalent in the Bangladeshi context.

This set the stage for presentations on "Urban Health and Environmental Health" and "Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-2nd Phase." *Dr. Ziaul Ahsan*, Project Director at Ipas Bangladesh, shed light on various environmental health concerns in urban regions, emphasizing the imperative for sustained coordination mechanisms between relevant ministries



and leveraging social media for advocacy. Following this, *Zakera Hannan Rubayat*, Project Manager at PSTC, UPHCSDP-II, elucidated on the Urban Primary Healthcare Service Delivery Project, emphasizing its aims to bolster health and social support for marginalized communities through innovative delivery models and community engagement strategies.

A panel discussion ensued, featuring insights from *Gawher Nayeem Wahra*, Writer and Researcher and *A.F.M Alauddin Khan*, Project Director, UPHCSDP-II, who deliberated on the necessity of decentralizing urban healthcare and bolstering primary healthcare services with the involvement of local governments and strategic partnerships with entities like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB). This discussion shed light on the multifaceted challenges posed by rapid urbanization, including air pollution and inadequate green spaces, underscoring the need for holistic strategies to safeguard public health in urban areas.

Subsequently, an open discussion and Q&A session provided a platform for further exploration of key issues, with *Dr. Jatan Bhowmick*, Project Director at Save the Children and *Dr. Sharmin*

Mizan, Deputy Project Director, UPHCSDP-II highlighting the importance of reinforcing government outdoor dispensaries and implementing robust medical waste management solutions to mitigate infection risks.

A highlight of the seminar was the speech delivered by *Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam*, Director at NIPSOM, MoHFW, who articulated concerns regarding the current lack of coordination in addressing urban healthcare challenges, proposed a comprehensive strategy encompassing specialized urban healthcare setups, dedicated outpatient services, and integration of urban health priorities into the Essential Service Package, underscored the urgency of addressing diverse urban health issues, ranging from school health to environmental hazards, with a view towards fostering sustainable urban development.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks and future steps outlined by *Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder*, CEO of Eminence and Member Secretary of BUHN, expressing gratitude to all participants and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing urban health and environmental challenges. As a culmination of the seminar discussions, several decisive actions were proposed, including the establishment of a sustained coordination mechanism between relevant ministries, integration of effective medical waste management solutions, strategies for decentralizing urban healthcare, upgrading outdoor dispensaries, and ensuring the incorporation of various urban health priorities into forthcoming sector programs. These decisions reflect a collective commitment to advancing urban health and environmental sustainability in Bangladesh, marking a significant step towards building resilient and inclusive urban communities.



Bi-weekly Knowledge Sharing Virtual Seminar
Urban Health & Environment Health

Host:
Bangladesh Urban Health Network (BUHN)

Date: 16th March 2024
Time: 11:30 AM to 01:00 PM (BST)

Chief Guest
Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam
Director
National Institute of Research in Social Medicine (NIPSOM)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Presenters

Dr. Ziaul Akbar
Project Director
UPHCSDP-II

Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam
Project Manager
UPHCSDP-II

Panel Speakers

Gonher Nazam Wahid
Writer and Researcher

Dr. Mir Mokarrab Hossain
Deputy Director (Planning & Research)
ICDDR,B, MCHW

Event Address:
Bangladesh Urban Health Network

1st Floor, House-483, Road-32
Mukeshahi DSHS, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh

E: info@eminence-bd.org | W: www.buhn.org