

## Highlights:

- The Government - WHO Coordination Committee meeting took place
- WHO Bangladesh Representative visited the Mayor of DNCC!
- World Water Day 2023
- EPI Vaccination Center is easy to reach now!
- Antimicrobial Awareness Campaign reaches School in Bangladesh
- WHO supports updating the Bangladesh Health Workforce Strategy 2015!
- Youth Vs Tobacco — A Joint Collaboration of BMSS & WHO Bangladesh
- Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement launched
- WHO completed the operational review of the health response in Cox's Bazar
- Bangladesh Participates in Functional Exercise to Enhance IHR Event Communication
- New mobile Diagnostic Van facilities complement Government initiative to End Tuberculosis in Bangladesh



## WHO Bangladesh Representative visited the Mayor of DNCC!

Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, did a courtesy visit with Mr. Atiqul Islam, the Honorable Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). During the visit, they discussed different communicable diseases, especially dengue. The honorable Mayor shared with the WHO representatives how they work on managing mosquito and Mosquito-borne diseases in Dhaka.

## The Government - WHO Coordination Committee meeting took place



The Government of Bangladesh & WHO Bangladesh Coordination Committee meeting (GWCC) occurred on 29 January 2023. The GWCC meeting is held biannually to guide the effective utilization of WHO support and partnership in the country for national health development.

Dr Md Anwar Hossain Howlader, Secretary, Health Services Division of MoH chaired, and WHO representative Dr Bardan Jung Rana co-chaired the meeting. Dr Rana mentioned that this year is the 75th anniversary of WHO, and WHO expects some key joint achievements from the joint effort.

## World Water Day 2023!

On World Water Day, a National Seminar titled 'Accelerating Change to Solve the Water and Sanitation Crisis' was jointly organized by the Directorate of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and Swedish Embassy. The seminar took place at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, on 22 March 2023. [Read more](#)



## “One WHO, One Family” - WHO Bangladesh Family Day-2023

WHO Staff Association, Bangladesh organized WHO Bangladesh Family Day-2023, “One WHO, One Family,” on 19 March 2023. Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative, with international and national staff, participated in the WHO family day. The event took place at the WHO country office premises in Dhaka. The staff and their family members participated in different exercises, games, and cultural programs, enjoyed the day, and made it successful.



## Completion of MLM Training

With the support of WHO, national EPI has successfully conducted country-wide MLM (Mid-level Managers) training for more than 400 newly posted Managers in a phased manner throughout the country from December 2022 to January 2023.

The mid-level manager is a techno-managerial position in the districts and upazilas and is responsible for planning, implementing, supervising, and monitoring all activities related to the EPI program. The Mid-Level Manager training aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage EPI programs in their assigned health facilities and communities and contribute to improving immunization coverage and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases. The WHO Divisional Offices played a pivotal role in completing all the planned training successfully.



## EPI Vaccination Center is easy to reach now!

Bangladesh's EPI program is a global success story, but in Bangladesh, urban immunization is still a challenge, especially in finding the location of a vaccination center is a great challenge. Based on this scenario, the national EPI felt the need to development of an app that could provide the location and information of EPI vaccination centers.

With the support of WHO, this app has been developed. GPS location, including particulars of vaccination centers in all 12 city corporations, has been included in this app. The app will provide detailed information about centers so that beneficiaries can access vaccination services easier. National EPI launched EPI Vaccination Center App the in the presence of chief health officers of all city corporations, civil surgeons of districts, WHO, Unicef, and other stakeholders.



Program Manager shared the EPI vaccination center app

## Antimicrobial Awareness Campaign

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) and WHO Bangladesh initiated school activities to raise antimicrobial awareness among school children. These activities included an art competition, comic book distribution among the students, and a pillow passing game for teachers to make the audience understand the AMR matter with fun. [Read more](#)





## Youth Vs Tobacco — A Joint Collaboration of BMSS & WHO BAN

With the support of WHO Bangladesh, BMSS (Bangladesh Medical Students' Society) organized an event, "Youth vs. Tobacco," on 17 March 2023. In this event, a good number of medical students received orientation as master trainers to train other medical students to eliminate tobacco from society. The best part of the event was the idea presentation competition by the medical students. The presentations were so fruitful that everyone was awed by the excellent ideas. [read more](#)



## Dissemination Workshop ON Post Crash Response

The non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) programme, DGHS, organized a "Dissemination Workshop on Post-Crash Response Initiatives" on 22 March 2023 in a hotel in Dhaka. The progress on the post-crash response initiatives recently taken by the NCDC-DGHS to reduce mortality and morbidities due to road traffic injuries was shared in the workshop. Md. Saibur Rahman, Additional Secretary (Admin), Health Services, Division, graced the workshop as the Chief Guest and discussed the strategies needed to sustain these initiatives. Dr Sadhana Bhagwat, team leader of NCD represented WHO representative of Bangladesh, shared WHO's stand and commitment on the issue and encouraged further collaborative approaches to scale up the initiatives.

## WHO supports updating the Bangladesh Health Workforce Strategy

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Bangladesh organized a two-day policy dialogue to capture priority actions toward achieving Vision 2041 of the government. The WHO Bangladesh provided technical support to the MOHFW.

The Honorable Health Minister, Mr Zahid Maleque, MP, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh present at the event as Chief Guest. Other high government officials from Medical Education and Family Welfare Division and Health Services Division also attended the event. Ms. Sangay Wangmo, Team Leader-Health Systems, represents WHO Bangladesh, and Mr. Ibadat Dhillon, Regional Advisor-HRH, WHO SEARO, facilitated the discussion.



## Mobile Diagnostic Van; Government new initiative to End Tuberculosis in Bangladesh

To support the UN's commitment to ending the global TB pandemic, WHO Bangladesh has launched two new mobile vans to serve hard-to-reach areas of Cox's Bazar. Equipped with the latest laboratory diagnostic facilities and aided with artificial intelligence, these two vans brought TB diagnostics services to people who don't have access to this service. [Read more](#)



## Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement launched

The Scaling Up Nutrition, or SUN, Movement was launched in 2010 in response to rising global malnutrition rates. Bangladesh joined the SUN Movement initiative in 2012, and the country made tremendous progress in the nutrition sector, especially in policy, plan of action formulation, and multi-sectoral collaboration.

With the support from WHO Bangladesh and GAIN Bangladesh, on 13 February 2023, Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, Additional Secretary (WH Wing), Health Services Division and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) focal person inaugurated SUN secretariat at IPHN Bhaban, Mohalali.

The SUN Bangladesh secretariat will support to achieve of SUN 3.0 aims to contribute towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



## WHO completed the operational review of the health response in Cox's Bazar

To mark five years of the Rohingya emergency in Cox's Bazar, the operational review forms a critical part of planning for improved health services for both the Rohingya and the host population.

WHO undertakes this exercise each year to review operations and improve interventions in the evolving health landscape in Cox's Bazar. As part of it, on 2 March 2023, WHO completed its fourth annual operational review of health dimensions for the Rohingya emergency response in Cox's Bazar.

[Read more](#)



## Successful completion of Mid-level Managers training in divisional level



With the support of WHO, national EPI has successfully conducted divisional level MLM (Mid-level Managers) training for more than 400 newly posted Managers in a phased manner throughout the country from December 2022 to January 2023. The mid-level manager is a technical managerial position in the districts and upazilas and is responsible for planning, implementing, supervising, and monitoring all the related EPI program activities.

The Mid-Level Manager training aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively manage EPI programs in their assigned health facilities and communities and contribute to improving immunization coverage and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases.



## Bangladesh Participates in Functional Exercise to Enhance IHR Event Communication

On 30 March 2023, Bangladesh's National IHR Focal Point (IHR NFP) participated in a WHO South-East Asia Region-wide functional exercise to practice and further strengthen its capacity for International Health Regulation (IHR) related Event Communication. SAPHIRE 2023 – South-East Asia Regional Practice of All Hazard IHR Event Communication - was organized and facilitated by the SEARO with support from the WHO Country Offices. [Read more](#)

## Capacity building/Abroad training

A workshop to Support the Development and Peer Review of Global Fund proposals for TB, HIV, and Malaria in SEAR Countries occurred from 13-15 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. From CDS, the WHO Bangladesh team Dr Anupama Hazarika, Dr Md Jahangir Alam, and Dr Nazis Arefin Saki participated in the workshop. There is a number of participants from the Government, and NGOs participated in that workshop.

A Workshop on Community capacity building for effective engagement toward ending TB in the SEA region was held from 13 to 15 March 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal. From the CDS team of the WHO Bangladesh Dr Nazis Arefin Saki, including government colleagues, participated in the workshop.

Dr Sabera Sultana, including Government and NGO colleagues, attended Programme Managers and Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) meeting on dog-mediated human rabies in South-East Asia Region in Bangkok from 27-28 March 2023.

Dr Anthony Eshofonie, Team Leader, WHO Health Emergency, participated Leadership in Emergencies workshop held on 16-20 March 2023, Istanbul, Turkey. Earlier a similar training titled Leadership Phase 1, was delivered entirely online. The workshop was held over a period of 5 days, with each day designed to focus on a particular area of competence. This Leadership Phase 2 training aims to build on Phase 1 by allowing participants to enhance and practice key leadership skills in a response set by working in teams.



## Spotlight

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## Manuscript writing Training



Teachers at post-graduate institutes play a vital role in creating groundbreaking research and shaping the minds of future researchers. To enhance the knowledge of new researchers, the teachers require a few essential skills, such as computer-based data analysis, literature review, referencing, and writing, besides their vast research knowledge. Therefore, the WHO Bangladesh extended its technical assistance to the National Centre for Control of Rheumatic Fever and Heart Disease with capacity-building training for eight post-graduate institutes in Dhaka. The program was divided into two rounds - freshers and refreshers aimed to train 40 assistant professors. The training of freshers' session was completed by March 2023.



WHO Bangladesh ready to celebrate 75 Years Celebration!

