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Meeting with WHO DG & the Minister of MOHFW, Bangladesh!



WHO DG with Honorable Health Minister, MOHFW, Bangladesh
Photo: External photographer

A meeting with the Director General World Health Organization and the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh, was held at WHO Headquarters on 6 April 2023. At the meeting, Dr. Tedros, Dr. Hannan Balkhi, Dr. Ahmedul Kabir, ADG, Honorable Permanent Representative and Ambassador Mr. Mohammad Sufiubar Rahman, Dr. Rogerio Gaspar were present.

Including adequate booster dose vaccination, necessary technical assistance for establishing vaccine plants, and accreditation for the Lab of Drug Administration, different issues were discussed in the meeting.

World Health Day 2023!



WHO Representative delivering his speech
Photo: Salma Sultana, WHO

The inaugural ceremony of World Health Day 2023 took place on 12 April at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka. This year's theme was "Health For All." Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was the chief guest at that event. Dr. Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, was present as a special guest at the event. Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Holader presides over the occasion, and Professor Dr Md Robed Amin, Line Director, NCDC program, DGHS, presented the keynote at the event.

WHO Celebrates its 75th Birthday



WHO Representative with Government officials
Photo: Salma Sultana, WHO

On 7 April 2023- World Health Day 2023, the World Health Organization Bangladesh observed its 75th birthday and organized a reception event at a hotel in the city. Dr Bardan Jung Rana, the WHO representative to Bangladesh, welcomes the dignitaries and guests from MOHFW, DGHS, Ambassies, UN agencies, Academic institutions, etc. A video message by Dr Tedros was screened to the audience.

Observance of International Nurses and Day for the Midwives

With the support of WHO Bangladesh and other development partners, the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), MOHFW, observed International Nurses and International Day for the Midwives 2023 on 8 June 2023. On that occasion, the Honorable Health Minister Mr Zahid Malek, MP, was present as Chief Guest, and Dr Bardan J. Rana, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, present as Special Guest. A discussion session was held on that day and the discussion was carried around this year's themes "Our Nurses, Our Future" and "Together Again: from Evidence to Reality."



WHO Representative delivered speech at the event
Photo: Salma Sultana, WHO

Monitoring Meeting on WHO Collaborative Programme

A two-day bi-monthly monitoring meeting of WHO and Government Collaborative Programme for PB 2022-2023 was held on 4 & 5 June 2023. The Health Service Division organized the meeting, and Mr Md Saidur Rahman, Additional Secretary (WH) HSD chaired the meeting.

In the beginning, WHO Bangladesh presents an overview of the progress, and respective PDs, PMs, and their representatives provided a concise overview of the achievements, physical progress, and financial implementation up to May 25, 2023. The presented monitoring reports were thoroughly analyzed and reviewed. It was observed that most of the programs, out of the 54 program components, had achieved satisfactory implementation according to the allocated funds from WHO Bangladesh.



Dr Jun Nakagawa, Technical Officer gave presentation in the meeting.

Photo: Salma Sultana, WHO

High Level Event on Accelerating UHC Towards Smart Bangladesh!

The government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh organized a high-level advocacy event on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in partnership with World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and other partner institutions on 11th May 2023. The Hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, MP was the Chief Guest at the event. Former Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt. Honorable Helen Clark, co-chair of the Chatham House Commission for Universal Health Coverage, was the special guest at the event. Under the leadership of Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, the Health systems unit of WHO BAN, provided technical assistance to the Bangladesh Government in collaboration with UNICEF and other partners to organize this event. [Read more](#)



Honorable Prime Minister and other dignitaries are on the stage
Photo: Salma Sultana, WHO

WHO Representative visits Rohingya camp post cyclone Mocha!



WHO Representative in the Rohingya camp, Cox'sbazar
Photo: WHO Cox's Bazar staff

Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, visited Cox's Bazar FDMN camp on May 18, 2023. He visited Camp 11, IRC Health Facilities, which was burnt recently by a fire incident. WHO Representative visited Camp 12, the Food & Health of Primary Health Care (PHC), PHC services, and the WHO preposition containers for emergency supplies. He also visited Camp 16, AMAN Health post, which was affected by the recent cyclone Mocha. To see the permanent structure in the camp area, he visited IOM Leda PHC in camp 24.

WHO's World Health Assembly Simulation!

As part of the WHO 75th Celebration, Bangladesh Medical Students' Society (BMSS) organized the mega event "WHO Simulation 2023" on 28 and 29 April with support from the World Health Organization Bangladesh. The Department of Public Health of Daffodil International University was the organizing partner of this conference. Furthermore, this entire awe-inspiring event was conducted through role play where Dr. MD. M Islam Bulbul, Program Manager, NNS at Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh, played the role of Director General of WHO for this simulation exercise. [read more](#)



Participants of WHO Simulation
Photo: External photographer

DGDA Empowers Physicians with the WHO AWaRe Poster!

To combat the global health concern of antibiotics and focus on rational antibiotic use, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) conducted an awareness program, technically and financially supported by WHO BAN, in Chittagong to address antibiotic resistance. DGDA presented the WHO AWaRe (Access, Watch, Reserve) classification, a tool that guides prescribers in choosing appropriate antibiotics for healthcare professionals. The AWaRe classification categorizes antibiotics into three groups based on efficacy and importance in treating infections, promoting rational antibiotic use, and preserving its effectiveness. [Read more](#)



Inauguration of the WHO AWaRe poster, Photo: External Photographer

National Nutrition Week 2023!



Ms Faria Shabnam, NPO, Nutrition, WHO delivered speech at the event

Photo: External photographer

National Nutrition Week was observed with the theme 'Build a strong nutrition base to build Smart Bangladesh' from 7 to 13 June 2023. On 8 June, focused on adolescents' nutrition, the "NourishNextGen Conference 2023" was organized. Several organizations, including the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), and Nutrition International (NI), jointly organized it. The conference emphasized the significance of healthy eating and maintaining a balanced diet for overall health and well-being. The event included technical sessions, art and quiz competitions, poster presentations, etc.

WHO supports optimizing the role of community health workers!



Guests are at the event.
Photo: External photographer

In collaboration with the MOHFW and WHO Bangladesh, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, carried out a study on optimizing community health worker's (CHWs) role in strengthening comprehensive primary health care and health systems resilience: prospects and challenges in Bangladesh. The CHWs were mapped in four Upazilas selected from four Divisions, and various health systems issues and challenges were identified and analyzed in the report. Ms. Sangay Wangmo, Team Leader and other Health System team member of WHO Bangladesh attended and facilitated the dissemination event.

Divisional review meeting on measles-rubella (MR) elimination

The government of Bangladesh is committed to eliminating measles-rubella & CRS and achieving the elimination goal by 2026. As part of that, the government is implementing several activities with the support of WHO. In June, all the divisions conducted divisional-level review meetings to review the divisional progress on the elimination activities and analyze the obstacles to achieving the target and way forward. All the Divisional Directors from the divisions, Civil Surgeons from districts, UHFPOs from the upazilas, and Chief Health Officers from City corporations participated in the meetings. Officers from EPI Head Quarters also joined the meeting to guide the national level. The Surveillance & Immunization Medical Officers and Divisional Coordinators, WHO BAN, provided technical support in this activity.



Participants of divisional review meeting
Photo: External photographer

Strengthening Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Workshop in Mymensingh



Anthony Eshofonie, Team Leader, HSER delivered speech
Photo: External photographer

A health emergency preparedness and response workshop was held on June 18th and 19th, 2023, at the BRAC Learning Centre in Mymensingh. The workshop aims to strengthen sub-national capacities in emergency preparedness and response. The workshop covered two main themes: natural disasters and disease outbreak management. There 40 participants from different government departments and non-government organizations participated in the workshop.

In-person Health Cluster meeting held in WCO



Participants are in Health Cluster meeting
Photo: External photographer

The Health Cluster meeting in Bangladesh was held on 22nd May 2023 at the WHO Country Office. It was jointly chaired by Dr. Anthony Eshofonie from WHO and Dr. Mahbubur Rahman from IEDCR. The primary aim of the meeting was to strengthen the understanding and enhance the effectiveness of the Health Cluster's work in Bangladesh. Dr. Anthony presented significant milestones related to the cluster approach in Bangladesh. Dr. Anthony introduced a standardized template for TOR review, highlighting its significance in ensuring clarity and consistency. The participants discussed the work methods, regular meetings, agenda sharing, and timely updates in the meeting.

Training on Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Surveillance

To train the Disease Surveillance Focal Persons (DSFP) and new government doctors on VPD Surveillance, the national EPI conducted district-level training in June 2023. After a national-level ToT, all the districts completed the training. More than 5,900 government doctors from all government medical colleges, districts, and upazila hospitals were trained on AFP, measles, and other vaccine-preventable disease surveillance. Surveillance & Immunization Medical Officers and Divisional Coordinators of WHO provided technical support in this activity.



Participants from VPD meeting
Photo: External photographer

Participation of abroad training & Meeting

Ms Sangay Wangmo, Team Leader, Health System, Dr Murad Sultan, National Professional Officer along with DGDA high official, attended The Seventh Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network on Access to Medicines under Universal Health Coverage, from 13-14 June 2023, in New Delhi, India. The objectives of the meeting was to update on country situations on access to medical products and discuss relevant policies to improve availability, affordability and price of medical products.

Dr Sabera Sultana, NPO-NTD & Dr Nazis Arefin Saki, NPO-TB from CDS team along with Professor Mamun Al Mahtab, Professor & Head, Interventional Hepatology Division from BSMMU attended "Annual meeting of Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Viral Hepatitis, HIV and STIs (STAG-HHS)" in South-East Asia Region and joint consultation with National Programme Managers held on 13 to 15 June 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, organized by the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia. The general objective of the meeting is to support and strengthen the integration across viral hepatitis, HIV and STIs in line with Integrated Regional Action Plan (I-RAP) 2022-2026 and seek technical advice from the STAG members on all aspects of work related to viral hepatitis, HIV and STIs in the Region.

To plan the accelerated implementation of new shorter regimens for the treatment of drug-resistant TB and specialized technical support via the rGLC initiative, a workshop was held on 25 – 27 April 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. To represent WHO Bangladesh, Dr Anupama Hazarika, Medical Officer, CDS & Nazis Arefin Saki, NPO-TB, participated in the workshop.

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Last 28 days

Post reach
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Post engagement
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Training on Manuscript Writing for Surgeons of Chattogram



Participants of Manuscript writing Training
Photo: External photographer

An assessment in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University showed that there is lack of knowledge and skill of medical teachers on scientific publication. Research and Publication unit of WHO Bangladesh has been supporting academia for building research capacity to fulfill this. Therefore, a training on manuscript writing was conducted on 16–18 May 2023 by Post Graduate Surgery Academia at Chittagong Club, Chattogram. Twenty doctors from various specialties and sub-specialties of surgery participated.

The 3-day participatory training was conducted by WHO Bangladesh. The topics included, literature search in PubMed, reference management using endnote, and data analysis and preparing tables and graphs Microsoft Word and Excel. Participants drafted a manuscript using the skills gathered from the training and presented it. A certificate was provided in the closing session which was graced by Professor Dr. Md. Ismail Khan, the honorable VC of Chattogram Medical University.

Spotlight

[Bangladesh COVID 19 Situation Report](#)

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Round Table Discussion!

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