

# WHO SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH



## BANGLADESH

- 18.7% of adults and 12.6% of children in Bangladesh meet criteria for a mental health condition
- Just 0.5 % of Bangladesh's healthcare budget is for mental health care and services
- There is only [approx.] 1 psychiatric nurse and psychologist for every 300,000 people in Bangladesh and just 1 psychiatrist for every 650,000 people
- Nationally, Bangladesh has 2 psychiatric hospitals, 56 psychiatric inpatient units, 69 outpatient hospital mental health facilities and 72 residential care facilities for its total population of 162.7 million

## STRENGTHS

- Strong political commitment of Bangladesh government, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) to mental health care reform
- Revised Mental Health Policy (2018) approved in 2019 and under process by MOHFW
- WHO mhGAP integration and training began in 2009 and is ongoing, using locally adapted versions
- Government supports inclusion of mental health services into primary health care and community settings
- Multiple advocacy organisations working on behalf of persons with disabilities and mental illnesses

## CHALLENGES

- Low public awareness about mental health accompanied with high stigma and discrimination for people living with mental health conditions
- Few skilled service providers and unequal geographic distribution
- Large population of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) with high mental health needs
- Adolescents have easy access to harmful drugs

## BANGLADESH'S DESIGN PROCESS

1

Analysis of Bangladesh National Mental Health Strategic Plan (2020-2030) to identify elements likely to need further development and specific support

2

An online consultation to identify areas that WHO's Special Initiative for Mental Health can support and/or complement the MOHFW's work under the Bangladesh National Mental Health Strategic Plan (2020-2030)

3

Develop a detailed plan for implementation of WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health support, in the form of a logical framework, including outcomes, outputs, activities, indicators and timeline.

4

Consultation and consensus building with MOHFW to validate and approve the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health logical framework – in readiness for implementation