

BANGLADESH



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

01

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved a **separate Operation Plan for Mental Health**, which will be included in the 5th Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Program, effective from July 2024.

02

Mental health services centers established in **4 districts** to provide services for mental, neurological and substance use conditions in 2023.

ACTIVITIES



Governance and Advocacy

- The new Operation Plan for Mental Health will focus on **strengthening effective leadership and governance for mental health**, strengthening information systems, and integrating mental health in all levels of health care, including community-based settings.
- WHO and the Government of Bangladesh organised a two-day-long art exhibition on mental health in Dhaka.
- Regular government-led Special Initiative for Mental Health committee and working group meetings held.
- Organised an advocacy workshop with **civil surgeons from the 10 designated districts** (Sylhet, Bandarban, Jashore, Chapainawabganj, Kurigram, Sherpur, Netrokona, Jhenaidah, Khulna and Noakhali) to review ongoing mental health service activities, plan for future endeavours, and formulate action plans for the participating districts. The civil surgeons arranged an awareness programme aligned with World Mental Health Day 2023 in their districts.



Scaling up mental health services

- 19 mental health service centres** established in four districts, with **8,691 consultations** provided for people living with mental, neurological and substance use conditions.
- Two referral hubs** for tele mental health services finalised at the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Mental Health. Distribution of telemedicine equipment in **14 hospitals and Sub-District Health Complexes** of four districts and two referral hubs completed.
- Inception programme and the baseline assessment was conducted on mental health service delivery, training needs, resource availability and gaps for the Khulna, Noakhali, Jhenaidah, Kurigram, Netrokona and Sherpur districts.



Capacity building

In 2023, a total of **252 healthcare providers** were trained in mental health and psychosocial support, adding to the 122 healthcare providers trained in 2022.

Strengthening mental health by bridging the gap between generations

PRIORITIES FOR 2024

- Capacity building of health care service providers including doctors, nurses, sub assistant community medical officers, health assistants and community health care providers to deliver mental health services at the community level
- Establish Community Mental Health Centres with tele mental health services **across 10 districts**:
 - ✓ To facilitate collection of service users outcome data in 3 districts
 - ✓ To roll out mhGAP training for the new districts
- Mental Health Investment Case launch and dissemination



World Health Organization