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- ◆ More than 88% above 18 get their COVID 19 vaccination in Cox's bazar
- ◆ Supporting survivors of gender-based violence
- ◆ New Initiative: The Cox's Bazar Multidisciplinary Skills Lab



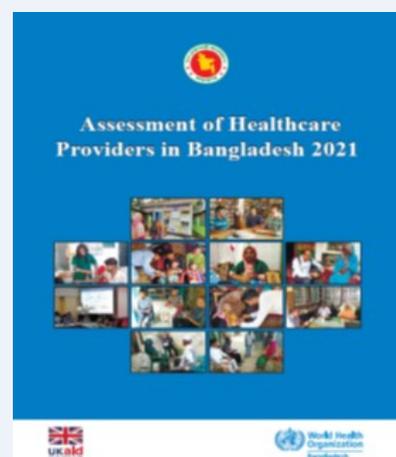
## Health Minister's National Award 2020!

WHO played a pivotal role in supporting the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in assessing the performance of all public health facilities across the country. Honorable Health Minister, Mr Zahid Maleque MP, awarded the best-performing health facilities in the event WHO Representative in Bangladesh, delivered his speech as a special guest and congratulated the awardees. For more information related Health Minister's award [Click](#)

## Report published “Assessment of Healthcare Providers in Bangladesh 2021”

In collaboration with the World Health Organization Bangladesh, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh conducted a national-level assessment to promote evidence-based decision-making to develop a baseline stock of the active health workers in Bangladesh toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The assessment aims to map out the active health workers, make reliable estimates of their density per 10,000 population, and develop the profiles of private and informal health workers with their essential particulars. Data were collected from a nationally representative sample, and finalize of sampling design, sample size, and the selection of sample units were assisted by BBS. The data collection period was September- October 2019. The report suggests strengthening the existing regulatory system, central HR information systems,



and monitoring and capacity building of the informal and unqualified health workers, ensuring quality healthcare for all ages. For the report: [Read more](#)

## WHO a reliable partner in Covid 19 vaccination campaign

The government of Bangladesh successfully conducted two rounds of mega campaign to vaccinate millions of unvaccinated populations in a short time. All members of the WHO-IVD team closely engaged in supporting local authorities in planning and implementing the COVID-19 campaign. More than 80 WHO IVD team members were involved in this initiative. In this campaign, 10+ national-level staff were deployed in high-priority districts to monitor and support the campaign. This opportunity was also used to pilot the Rapid Convenience tool developed to assess vaccination status in identified areas.



COVID Vaccination in Sylhet City Corporation

## Regional Workshop to Review Progress towards Measles-Rubella and Other Priority VPD Surveillance and Outbreak Preparedness and Response



Workshop participants with the chief guest and other guests

Photo Faysal Ahmed

Rubella, and other priority VPDs for accelerated efforts towards elimination/control of all priority VPDs. The WHO Representative to Bangladesh, Dr Bardan Jung Rana delivered the message of the Regional Director, WHO SEAR. The Additional Secretary, World Health, MHFW Bangladesh presided over the inaugural session. On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh the Director of Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health, DGHS gave opening and closing remarks. The Technical Officer-Measles, WHO-SEARO coordinated the event.



WHO IVD SIMO & DGHS on the field

Photo: WHO staff

## Reaching the unreachable!

In close collaboration with government health authorities, WHO Bangladesh provided support in the planning and implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Dublar Choar one of the hard-to-reach areas in Bagerhat. Dublar Chair is the most remote fishing island of the Bay of Bengal. The support also included capacity building of government and partners on COVID-19 vaccination, AEFI management, and monitoring and supervision. This vaccination campaign was arranged to vaccinate the community in Dublar choar in the last week of February. The vaccination team, including WHO IVD SIMO, stayed on the island and vaccinated > 9500 fishers. DG of Health Services, Secretary of the Health Services Division, and other high-level government officials visited this vaccination program.

The Fourth Regional workshop to review progress towards Measles-Rubella and other Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) surveillance and outbreak preparedness and response in WHO South-East Asia Region was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 13 to 16 June 2022. The workshop was attended by national managers, officers of the national immunization programmes, surveillance officers and data focal points from health ministries of nine member states together with WHO focal points in the respective countries. The general objective of the meeting was to strengthen Member States' capacity to conduct high-quality surveillance for Measles,

## WHO Representative to Bangladesh visit Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) Campaign!

To witness the OCV campaign, Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative in Bangladesh, visited two areas of Mohammadpur of Dhaka North City today. During the visit, DR Rana observed the campaign and administered the OCV vaccine to the kids. He talked to dwellers about the campaign and spent time with them. In collaboration with the Communicable Disease Control of the DGHS, EPI, WHO, and UNICEF, icddr,b conducted this campaign among the population in urban areas. Mohammadpur is considered for OCV vaccination because the cholera hospitalization rate is higher here. [Read more](#)



WHO representative administered the OCV vaccine to the kids.  
Photography: Salma Sultana, WHO

## Global Summit on Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis!

The 1st Global Summit on Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis took place in the city on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. Over 1.5 billion people are infected with soil-transmitted helminth infections worldwide or 24% of the world's population. Infections are widely distributed in tropical and subtropical areas, with the greatest numbers occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas, China, and East Asia. Based on the given number and facts, WHO supported the National program technical and financially for this global summit. [Read more](#)



Guests and participants of the event.

Photo: Niveditha Narasimhan

## Joint Collaboration with NLP and WHO to Developed Leprosy Strategy, Guidelines and Training Module

To achieve Zero Leprosy Initiative by 2030, NLP desires to introduce SDR as post-exposure prophylaxis. A Guideline and SOP have been developed, based on SDR implementation. To Provide technical support to develop and update leprosy strategy, guidelines, and training module NLP has organized 5 meetings with the support of WHO. To decrease the number of new leprosy cases National Leprosy Program wants to start SDR post-exposure prophylaxis. To conduct this activity, an SOP has been formulated. These meetings are grounded in sharing knowledge and experience to build up a fruitful SOP for SDR implementation.

In the post elimination period, there are many hidden cases found among the people who are in contact with leprosy patient. To reduce the burden of new cases SDR (Single Dose Rifampicin) as post exposure prophylaxis has been introduced. Initially, a pilot program will start in 02 districts (Meherpur and Gai-bandha), then it will be extended countrywide. This Single Dose of Rifampicin to the people in close contact with leprosy patient. Adult person will receive 600mg single dose of Rifampicin and children will receive 300mg single dose of Rifampicin as prophylaxis. These SDR will be given among the family members of leprosy patient like spouse, children and parents who are in close contact. In this context National Leprosy Program wants to take initiative to start SDR as post exposure prophylaxis to achieve the National target by 2030.

## Observance of World No Tobacco Day 2022



The chief guest and other guest of the event.  
Photo: Dr Syed Mahfuzul Haq, NCD, WHO

To observe the World No-Tobacco Day 2022, Bangladesh Parliamentary Forum for Health & Wellbeing organized a discussion session in Dhaka on 31 May 2022. "Tobacco: Threat to our environment" is WNTD theme this year. Dr. Bardan Jung Rana, the WHO representative to Bangladesh, participated as a special guest in the discussion session. In his speech, Dr. Rana said, "Reducing tobacco consumption is not only related to good health and health-related goals. It also needs to be identified as a critical lever for achieving several other Sustainable Development (SDG). Therefore, the campaign calls on governments and policymakers to enact legislation, including implementing and strengthening existing schemes to make the produces responsible for tobacco's environmental and economic costs". [Read more](#)

## Research Dissemination Workshop

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) have become a major public health concern accounting for 67% deaths in Bangladesh. A number of studies have been conducted on NCDs in recent times, which can influence public health policies. To share these research findings and results with the policymakers, stakeholders, and health care providers, an event was organized on 19 May 2021. A total of 300 participants from relevant ministries, NGOs, INGOs, and relevant academic institutions attended the workshop. Honorable Health Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was the Chief Guest.



Guests from the event. Photo: WHO staff

## Launch technical workshop on regulatory and fiscal approaches to promote physical activity



The Chief Guest delivering her speech. Photo: WHO staff

On 14 June 2022, a technical workshop on regulatory and fiscal approaches to promote physical activity (PA and Law) was organized in Dhaka under the Global RECAP Program. Global RECAP is a collaborative programme between WHO, IDLO and IDRC. Global RECAP has been implemented in its initial phase in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The workshop was organized by WHO and the ARK Foundation. Ms Kazi Zebunnessa Begum, Additional Secretary (World Health) Health Services Division, and Professor Dr Robed Amin, Line Director, Noncommunicable Diseases Control Programme, DGHS graced the

## National Mental Health Policy 2022 approved

The draft National Mental Health Policy 2022 was approved by the cabinet on 19 May this year. This policy has been formulated based on the mental health needs of the population, available services, pilot projects, and experiences of other countries and international experts. With the support of WHO, the consultation and negotiations occurred through working groups and consensus meetings. This consultation meeting was held with the involvement of the government, international organizations, professionals' associations, universities, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and persons with mental health conditions and their families. According to the policy, mental health will be made an integral part of the social and economic development of Bangladesh. [Policy](#)

## Building Capacity of Rapid Response Teams

Rapid Response Teams Training (RRT) aims to strengthen the skills and capacity of multidisciplinary RRT teams to ensure early detection and effective response to public health events. On 14 and 16 June 2022 with all district Civil Surgeons and Divisional Directors of Health at NIC/IEDCR a training was conducted. IEDCR as National Influenza Centre (NIC) in Bangladesh organized RRT targeting in country national health professionals under the PIP funding. In total 60 participants attended the in person training with the insight of reinforcing the expertise regarding early and effectual response to any public health emergencies.

The training is designed to engage participants who are credible for deployment as members in the national Rapid Response team during any alarming public health event. To facilitate the training, a core group of resource persons is formed consisting of experts of IEDCR. The participants were oriented on the influenza surveillance activities of the country and trained on epidemiology, clinical management, and infection control of seasonal and avian influenza. The medical technologists provided training on sample collection, transportation and its importance, laboratory safety and infection control.

## Bangladesh Flood 2022

- The WHO Collaboration with DGHS/MOHFW



WHO response in the flood affected areas  
Photo: Mr Tareq Hassan, WHO

WHO is working with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and health partners in Bangladesh to respond to one of the worst floods in recent times, supporting disease surveillance and emergency response coordination to minimize death and disease and contain post-flood diseases outbreak. WHO has provided medicines, ORS, water purification tablets to emergency medical stocks for the affected Sylhet, Chattogram, Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Mymensingh divisions in Bangladesh. [Read the full story](#)

## Monitoring visit to Benapole land port and health facilities in Jashore



Joint Monitoring visit by WHO and DGHS

Photo: WHO staff

WHO Health Security & Emergency Response team and the IHR team of the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) unit of the Directorate General of Health Services travelled to Jessore from 5 to 8 March 2022 to observe and monitor Points of entry (POE) activities and assess the health facilities and laboratories engaged in COVID-19 case detection. The Civil Surgeon, Jashore and UHFPO, Sharsha Upazila joined the mission. The mission visited Benapole land port (IHR-2005 designated Land port) and inspected the arena allocated for travellers' health screening, sample collection booth, and the Health desk at the port. Later a co-

ordination meeting with the PoE stakeholders was conducted and WHO provided an overview of IHR with emphasis on capacity at POE. The mission visited the Microbiology department of the Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST). The host briefed on their laboratory capacity, research activities, and challenges for RT-PCR tests, including how they were involved with the laboratory network for SARS-CoV-2 detection in response to the nation's call.

The mission visited the 250 bedded General Hospital, Jashore and learned about the hospital's capacity, common infectious diseases prevalent in the locality, and how they manage referred cases from the Benapole land port. The mission also conducted a workshop on the Prevention, Control, and Management of infectious diseases, including COVID-19 where Health Managers from the neighbouring Upazilas and consultants of the 250 bedded General Hospital were resource persons and shared their experience on handling and management of infected travellers from the PoE.

# Cox's Bazar Activities/Updates

## More than 88% above 18 get their COVID 19 vaccination in Cox's bazar

COVID-19 is an ongoing health challenge in many parts of the world. That's why WHO is working hard to protect those most at-risk of infection. It is an example how collaborative health-sector partnership ensured that more than 88% of Rohingya above 18 years of age could get their COVID-19 vaccination in Cox's Bazar. [Read more](#)



Photo: James Carmichael, WHO

## Supporting survivors of gender-based violence



Photo: Irene Gavieiro, WHO

Displaced women and girls are amongst the world's most vulnerable demographics. Discover how WHO and partners enable the health sector to fight back against gender-based violence. Through specialised training, monitoring and community engagement, they're making Cox's Bazar a safer place for Rohingya women. [For feature-story](#)

## New Initiative: The Cox's Bazar Multidisciplinary Skills Lab

Working in collaboration with WHO, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of Bangladesh inaugurated the new skills lab in May 2022 at the Cox's Bazar Medical College. This type of facility is new to Bangladesh, offering a unique vehicle for education and collaboration that will enhance sector responses to various health challenges. [Full story](#)



Demonstration session  
Photo: James Carmichael, WHO

### About WHO

Dedicated to the well-being of all people and guided by science, the World Health Organization leads and champions global efforts to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance at a safe and healthy life. We are the UN agency for health that connects nations, partners and people on the front lines in 150+ locations – leading the world's response to health emergencies, preventing disease, addressing the root causes of health issues and expanding access to medicines and health care. Our mission is to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

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