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Dr. Rajesh Narwal joined as the Deputy WHO Representative to Bangladesh!



Dr. Rajesh Narwal became the Deputy WHO Representative to Bangladesh starting 15 July 2024.

Before this role, he served in three WHO regions; as the Coordinator- Universal Health Coverage in WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific (WPRO), Health Systems Advisor in WHO South Africa and as Technical Officer in

Health Systems Stewardship at WHO India. . He brings over 20 years of experience in Health Systems strengthening, health emergencies and disease control programmes in diverse settings and organizations in South Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Western Pacific. Before joining WHO 12 years ago, Dr. Narwal has also held leadership positions with the Ministry of Health in India, Medical Emergency Relief International (UK), the US CDC, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Narwal is a medical doctor and holds a master's degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Orientation Workshop on WHO Policies and the PDPM Guidelines



Guests and the participants of the workshop Photo: WHO staff

A one-day orientation workshop was organized by the Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with support from WHO Bangladesh, focusing on WHO policies and the Program Directors and Programme Managers (PDPM) Guidelines. The workshop was inaugurated by the Honorable Secretary of the Health Services Division, MOHFW, Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam. Dr. Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Country Representative for Bangladesh, appreciated the participation of PDPMs in the workshop and urged them to successfully implement the GOB-WHO collaborative programs for 2024-2025.

Stakeholder Consultation on Localizing Health-Related SDGs



Participants from the stakeholder consultation meeting. Photo: WHO staff

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) is committed to achieving health-related SDGs by 2030. To support this goal, DGHS is developing an "SDG Monitoring Framework with Local Level Target Setting for Health-Related SDGs," designed to reflect updated data, assess progress, and review targets for each health-related SDG indicator. This comprehensive framework will enable DGHS to track implementation, inform policymakers, and ensure accountability among stakeholders. To advance this initiative, a stakeholder consultation meeting was held on July 31, 2024. The meeting was attended by key officials, including the Additional Director General and senior representatives from relevant departments, and focused on localizing targets for the monitoring framework.

Regional Meeting on accelerating access to rehabilitation in South-East Asia



Participants of Joint External Evaluation (JEE).
Photo: WHO staff

WHO SEARO, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Bangladesh and the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), organized a Regional Meeting on Accelerating Access to Rehabilitation in South-East Asia from July 16 to 18, 2024, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The objective of the meeting was to support South-East Asian countries in enhancing the provision of rehabilitation services. The inaugural session of the three-day meeting commenced on July 16, with attendance from high-ranking officials from the Government of Bangladesh, WHO country office, SEARO, and HQ, representatives from member states, nominees from the Ministries of Health of various countries, and experts in the field. During the meeting, key topics included: The “Regional Status of Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Services in the Region, WHO Tools on Assistive Technology, The “South-East Asia Regional Project on Training on Assistive Products (SEAR TAP), The “Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation (PIR). The panel discussion focused on the “Challenges in Providing Rehabilitation Services in the Region” and the “Regional Framework for Strengthening Rehabilitation Services.” Representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste presented updates on the status of rehabilitation services in their countries. This meeting successfully established a robust network of rehabilitation professionals who will advocate for and drive the expansion of rehabilitation services within their countries and across the WHO South-East Asia Region.

AMR Surveillance to Safeguard Rohingya Population and Host Communities



Guests are on the Dais
Photo: Staff/NCD, WCO

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and health partners, initiated an Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Surveillance program in the Rohingya camps on September 25, 2024. This program aligns with the national AMR surveillance program in Bangladesh and aims to monitor AMR among selected microbial pathogens affecting both the Rohingya population and the adjacent host communities.

Workshop on Prioritization of GPW 14 Outcomes for GOB-WHO Programme



Participants of Joint External Evaluation (JEE).
Photo: WHO staff

The workshop on the prioritization of outcomes for the Programme Budget 2026-2027 and beyond, under the Global Programme of Work (GPW) 14, was held on 14 September 2024. The primary objective of the workshop was to assess, prioritize, and align the priorities of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to enhance their effectiveness in the upcoming program period. GPW 14 spans from 2025 to 2028 and includes three strategic objectives, 15 outcomes, and 30 outputs. The key outcomes were categorized into high, medium, and low priorities based on the level of support required from WHO to achieve national health targets.

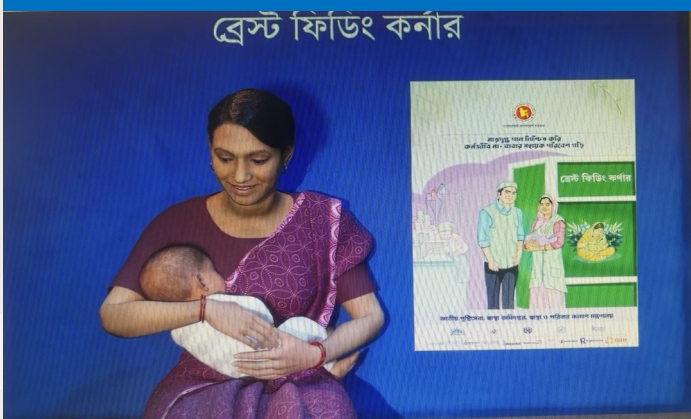
Observed Global Handwashing Day 2024!



Guests are demonstrating handwashing.
Photo: WHO

On Global Handwashing Day, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), WHO, and UNICEF organized an event to promote the importance of hand hygiene. Honorable Adviser Mr. A.F. Hasan Arif and other distinguished guests emphasized the crucial role of handwashing in protecting public health. With 400 participants, including students demonstrating proper handwashing techniques, the event served as a powerful reminder of how simple actions can safeguard well-being. Dr. Rajesh Narwal, Deputy Representative to WHO Bangladesh, attended as the guest of honor. He highlighted WHO's ongoing support to the government in various WASH initiatives, including the development of guidelines, strategies, and standards for different settings and pandemic situations, such as COVID-19. In 2023, WHO assisted the government in developing national WASH standards for healthcare facilities in Bangladesh to ensure the provision of safe and adequate WASH facilities.

The Importance of Breastfeeding with New 3D Animation!



To support breastfeeding, WHO, in collaboration with the National Nutrition Services (NNS) and the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), has developed two 3D animations. The first animation emphasizes the importance of breastfeeding and provides guidance for working parents in various settings, such as workplaces and public areas. It also covers topics like expressing and storing breast milk. The second animation focuses on the BMS Act and related laws, highlighting violations in health facilities, pharmacies, and markets, as well as issues like financial incentives and the role of regulatory authorities. Impress Telefilm Limited will broadcast these animations on Channel I, Independent TV, GTV, and Deepto TV, aiming to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to protect and promote breastfeeding throughout society. [Watch the animation](#)

Bangladesh conducted 2nd JEE 2024!



Participants from the meeting
Photo: WHO Staff

Bangladesh recently conducted its second Joint External Evaluation (JEE) to assess the implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities. Coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through IEDCR and the Bangladesh Centre for Disease Control, the evaluation involved 23 international experts who reviewed 19 technical areas. The exercise combined self-evaluation, peer review, and external evaluation, focusing on the country's ability to respond to public health events. The JEE, conducted from 7-11 July 2024, included presentations and field visits, drawing on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Results revealed that Bangladesh demonstrated capacity in 42% of areas, developed capacity in 37%, sustained capacity in 5%, and had limited capacity in 16%.

WHO Deputy Representative Strengthens Collaboration and Support in Cox's Bazar

WHO Deputy Representative to Bangladesh, Dr. Rajesh Narwal, visited Cox's Bazar to engage with health partners and observe WHO-supported programs. During the visit, Dr. Narwal held productive discussions with key government partners in Cox's Bazar, including the Civil Surgeon and the Superintendent of the 250-bed Sadar District Hospital. The Civil Surgeon expressed satisfaction with WHO's activities and emphasized a strong commitment to continuing the collaboration. He also extended his gratitude to WHO for supporting the establishment of a dedicated Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) at the Civil Surgeon's Office. [Read more](#)



Deputy WR engages with Community Health workers at the BRAC Health Facility. ©WHO/Terence Ngwabe Che

WHO's Response to Severe Flooding in Bangladesh



Emergency lead, WHO Bangladesh observing the Diarrhea Treatment at Feni Sadar Hospital. Photo: WHO staff

In the third week of August 2024, heavy rainfall and upstream water releases led to significant flooding across multiple districts in Bangladesh, particularly affecting 11 districts in the eastern regions. The districts of Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur, and Cumilla experienced the most severe impacts. According to the National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC), approximately 5.8 million people were affected, with 502,501 individuals displaced into 3,403 evacuation shelters. The flooding submerged rural roads, agricultural fields, and fishponds, creating substantial access challenges that were further exacerbated by power outages. The resulting displacement and overcrowding in temporary shelters raised serious protection concerns, particularly for vulnerable populations, including women and girls.

[Read more](#)

WHO Bangladesh Celebrates Landmark Success of the HGSP in Cox's Bazar

The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and various United Nations agencies, conducted a workshop in Cox's Bazar on June 22, 2024, to celebrate the successful completion of the Health and Gender Support Project (HGSP).

The HGSP in Cox's Bazar was designed to enhance access to and utilization of Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) services, as well as Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services. Led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and funded by the World Bank, the project supports both host communities and the Rohingya population. [Read more](#)



Hands-on training on donning and doffing HCWM protective equipment, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, February 2024. ©WHO/ Terence Ngwabe Che

Multistakeholder Workshop on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis



Health sector partners brainstorm on strategies amid health challenges in camps. © WHO/Terence Ngwabe Che

On July 1, 2024, the Health Sector, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, conducted a Strategic Dialogue Workshop in Cox's Bazar.

The workshop aimed to address ongoing challenges and formulate cost-effective, sustainable strategies for the health sector's response to the Rohingya refugee crisis. [Read more](#)

BMSS organized "Walk the Talk" event to commemorate World Population Day



The Bangladesh Medical Students' Society (BMSS) organized the landmark event, 'Walk the Talk', on 11 July 2024 to commemorate World Population Day. With the support of WHO Bangladesh, this initiative saw the participation of 5,000 medical students from 43 medical colleges across all eight divisions of the country, making it the largest event ever organized by medical students in Bangladesh. The theme of this year's event was 'Healthy Life, Healthy Family', emphasizing the importance of health and well-being in family life. 'Walk the Talk' highlighted the crucial role that future healthcare professionals play in advocating for and implementing health initiatives. This was the second Walk the Talk event in the country, with BMSS having organized the first historic Walk the Talk in South-East Asia in 2023. BMSS's successful organization of such a large-scale event, with the support of WHO, is a testament to the collective dedication to improving health standards in Bangladesh. As the walk concluded, the nation was left with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to fostering healthier lives and families. We congratulate all 43 local committees for their successful efforts in organizing this momentous event, the largest ever by medical students in Bangladesh.

Battling Cholera: WHO's lifesaving efforts in Rohingya Camps!

The World Health Organization (WHO), as the lead agency for the Health Sector, is collaborating with the WASH sector to address the cholera outbreak in the Rohingya camps through the Joint Assessment and Response Team (JART). Cholera remains a significant threat in refugee settings and among migrant populations due to overcrowding, insufficient access to clean water, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. [Read more](#)



JART members testing water chlorine levels, used for drinking water disinfection, Rohingya Camps, July 2024. © Terence Ngwabe Che

Regional Meeting on Healthy Diets, Food Environments, and Physical Activity



Group photo! Photo: SEARO staff

The regional meeting focused on promoting healthy diets and physical activity, which are essential for achieving public health targets. The event gathered country offices, policymakers, researchers, and advocates to share best practices and discuss strategies for improving health through policy and behavioral changes. Over three days, participants explored approaches to address policy gaps, build government capacity, and engage civil society in advocating for healthful environments. Each country presented action items for advancing healthy diet and physical activity policies. The Bangladesh Country Office participant facilitated a session on healthy diet and physical activity promotion. Discussions included industry perspectives on promoting healthy diets, CSR's role in physical activity promotion, and the potential conflict with unhealthy food promotion. Alternatives to unhealthy food sponsorships of sports events, such as promoting healthier foods and sports-related products, were also explored.

Spotlight!

[Early Warning, Alert and Response System \(EWARS\)](#)

[WHO Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis-situation report](#)

[Bangladesh COVID 19 Situation Report](#)

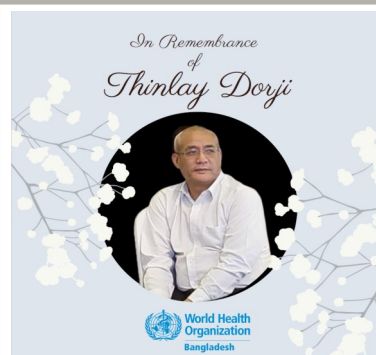
UPCOMING

Watch the animation video on WHO YouTube channel, Channel I, Independent TV, GTV, and Deepto TV

<https://youtu.be/7nUSDS51RLI?si=GARLYnIjRvH6UXX>

https://youtu.be/nQrDzH-Zp50?si=TwleufZjMOBUkO_t

In Remembrance of Thinlay Dorji



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Thinlay Dorji, Administrative Officer at WHO Bangladesh, on 14 September 2024, following a courageous battle with cancer.

On behalf of the entire staff at WHO Bangladesh, we extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Dorji's family during this difficult time. Mr. Thinlay was a kind, compassionate, and dedicated individual whose expertise and warmth left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of working with him. His contributions to the organization and his colleagues will be remembered with great respect and admiration. We pray that his soul rests in eternal peace, and we ask the Almighty to grant his grieving family the strength, patience, and resilience to bear this profound loss.

Social Media Followers insight

Social Media Follower Insight

Facebook followers	Instagram followers	X followers	LinkedIn followers	YouTube subscribers
85.5k	3.2k	3k	2.9k	3.2k
Higher than others	Higher than others	Higher than others	Higher than others	Higher than others
Typically: 4.4k	Typically: 1.2k	Typically: 1.1k	Typically: 20.7k	Typically: 21.8k

Social Media Reach Performance

Facebook	Instagram	X	LinkedIn	YouTube
1.4M	5.7k	6.6k	14k	698.7k
Higher than others	Higher than others	Higher than others	Higher than others	Higher than others

Top Performing Content

Children, Love Your Eyes Let's make sure your child's eyes are healthy, follow up on eye exams, and encourage proper eye care. On this World Sight Day, let's prioritize... Thu Oct 10, 5:22am 2K views, 35 likes, 0 shares	MPOX Public Health Emergency of International Concern WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom... Sat Aug 17, 1:19am 3.2K views, 38 likes, 17 shares	Reach Out and Offer Support To people who need it If you know someone who's struggling to... Fri Oct 11, 9:21pm 2.1K views, 57 likes, 11 shares
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Read more <http://tiny.cc/dmjtzz>

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