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Dr Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative a.i. to Bangladesh!



Photo: Salma Sultana/WHO

Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed officially became the WHO Representative a.i. in Bangladesh on November 1, 2024. With over 18 years of experience in public health, he brings extensive expertise to the role.

Dr. Jamsheed joined the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia in 2013 as a Medical Officer and became the Regional Adviser for NTD Control in 2015. He served as Deputy WHO Representative in Bangladesh from May 2021 to August 2022 and continues as the WHO Representative to DPR Korea.

Before joining WHO, Dr. Jamsheed held key leadership roles in the Maldives' public health sector. He holds a medical degree from Indira Gandhi Medical College in India and a master's in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.

The GWCC meeting was held on 24 November 2024!



Meeting participants of GWCC meeting
Photo: Mohasin Azad/WHO

To review the progress of the WHO Biennium 2024-25 and plan for 2026-27, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) of Bangladesh, in collaboration with WHO Bangladesh, organized the GWCC meeting on 24 November 2024. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Md Mamunur Rashid, joint secretary of the Health Services division, ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) who welcomed participants from ministries and WHO.

The agenda included a review of past achievements, alignment of the WHO-Bangladesh biennial work plan for 2026-27, and endorsement of strategic documents aimed at enhancing health outcomes in Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Md Saidur Rahman, Secretary, Health Services Division, MOHFW, and co-chaired by Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative a.i. to Bangladesh.

Dr. Jamsheed outlined the meeting's objectives, followed by key presentations: Dr. Jun Nakagawa reviewed the WHO Collaborative Programme for PB 2024-2025 and preparations for the 2026-27 Biennium, while Mr. Pallav Bhatt presented insights from the UHC and SDG Monitoring Report for SEAR 2024. The meeting was a significant step in advancing healthcare initiatives in Bangladesh.

Farewell of Dr. Bardan Jung Rana!



A Strong Partnership for HPV Vaccination in Sylhet!



Deputy WR monitored the vaccination session in the tea garden.
Photo Credit: Salma Sultana/WHO

As part of the HPV vaccination program, WHO field teams and partners supported the government and city corporations in planning, implementation, and monitoring. To strengthen advocacy, Deputy Representative of WHO Bangladesh Dr. Rajesh Narwal visited Sylhet Division and several districts from November 18-20, 2024. He met with senior officials, visited cold chain facilities, observed immunization sessions, and monitored vaccination coverage in schools and tea garden communities. [Read more](#)

Closing event for the Better Health in Bangladesh project!



WHO representative delivering his speech.
Photo: WHO staff

On December 4, 2024, the British High Commission hosted the closing event for the Better Health in Bangladesh: Health Systems Strengthening Technical Assistance project at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Running from June 2018 to December 2024, the project was supported by the UK's FCDO and implemented with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNFPA, MHS, and icddr,b.

Ms. Sangay Wangmo, WHO Bangladesh's Team Leader of Health Systems, presented a documentary highlighting the project's focus on policy advocacy, evidence generation, health system readiness, and capacity building. She also emphasized WHO's role during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in medicine quality and antibiotic misuse. Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Bangladesh's Representative a.i., praised the project's success in addressing policy gaps and advancing health priorities. He stressed the need to continue building a resilient and equitable health system, noting the collaborative approach that involved the government, civil society, and development partners.

Stakeholder Consultation on the revision of Bachelor of Dental Surgeon (BDS) curriculum



WR and TL-Health Systems were welcomed by CME.
Photo Credit: Md Nuruzzaman / WHO

The Centre for Medical Education (CME), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Bangladesh, with technical support from WHO Bangladesh, organized the final stakeholder consultation on the revision of the 2016 Bachelor of Dental Surgeon (BDS) curriculum on November 28, 2024, at its Conference Hall in Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Dr. Md Sarwar Bari, Secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, MOHFW, attended as Chief Guest. Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, and Professor Dr. Nazmul Hossain, Director General of the Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME), attended as Special Guests. The curriculum revision was finalized during the meeting.

GoB with support of WHO and Partners Roll Out HPV Vaccines in Rohingya Camps



A young girl receives the HPV vaccine, Rohingya Refugee camps.
Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che/WHO

In a groundbreaking initiative, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UNHCR, and other health partners, launched a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign in the Rohingya camps.

This campaign aims to provide free vaccines to female students from Grade 5 to Grade 9, and out-of-school female adolescents aged 10 to 14 years, marking a significant step toward preventing cervical cancer within the camps. The HPV campaign in the Rohingya camps ran from December 3 to 11, 2024, targeting a population of 63,637 girls across 33 camps and Bhasan Char. A total of 68 health facilities (55 in Ukhiya and 13 in Teknaf) were selected for the HPV campaign based on several criteria. [Read more](#)

Mpox preparedness and sensitization Activities



Participants from the meeting
Photo: WHO Staff

The recent re-declaration of Mpox as a PHEIC highlights the need for countries to strengthen surveillance systems for early detection and response. Since its initial declaration in 2022, Mpox cases have been reported across all WHO regions, including the SEA region (Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and India), raising concerns of further spread. Bangladesh has not reported any cases but recognizes the importance of preparedness, particularly at Points of Entry (PoEs).

In response, WHO has supported various preparedness activities, including updating Mpox clinical management guidelines, creating a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, and developing PoE Health Screening SOPs. Additionally, WHO conducted sensitization sessions for health and non-health staff at PoEs in Sylhet, Chattogram, and Jashore and provided materials to strengthen risk communication. These efforts aim to improve early detection, reporting, and clinical care to keep Bangladesh Mpox-free.

Empowering Humanitarian Workers: WHO Mainstreams PSEA in Cox's Bazar



Participants actively engage in an interactive session
Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che /WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network in Cox's Bazar, conducted a comprehensive workshop with an aim to integrate PSEA into humanitarian and emergency response services. This initiative, coordinated by the WHO PRSEAH Coordinator in Bangladesh, is part of WHO's ongoing efforts to enhance the protection and well-being of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar. The training, held on 9 and 14 October 2024. [Read More](#)

Workshop to Strengthen Road Crash Data Management in Bangladesh



Deputy WHO Representative delivering speech

The NCDC of DGHS, supported by WHO, organized a workshop on November 12-13, 2024, to strengthen road crash data management systems. CIPRB, engaged by WHO, assisted in organizing the event. Dr. Rajesh Narwal, Deputy WHO Representative, attended as a special guest and emphasized, "Ensuring road safety requires the active participation of all stakeholders. WHO is pleased to support this Government initiative."

The final phase of the HPV vaccination campaign is to achieve nationwide coverage!



Bangladesh will launch its nationwide HPV vaccination campaign on October 24, 2024, to reduce cervical cancer rates. This phase will cover seven divisions: Chittagong, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, and Rangpur. The Dhaka Division participated in the 2023 campaign, reaching 74.52% of its target. The launch event at Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka was attended by Mr. M A Akmal Hossain Azad, Senior Secretary of the Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, along with Dr. Rajesh Narwal, Deputy Head of WHO Country Office, and Ms. Rana Flowers, UNICEF Representative to Bangladesh.

"We have the power to safeguard the women of Bangladesh and pave the way for a healthier future. WHO's commitment is clear: to ensure that every girl between the ages of 10 and 14 receives her HPV vaccine during the nationwide campaign in October and November 2024. Together, we are championing the health and well-being of the nation's daughters." said Dr. Rajesh Narwal, WHO Deputy Representative to Bangladesh.

Enhancing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Preparedness Planning: The READY Workshop



Group photo with the training participants.
Photo: external photographer

As part of the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health (SIMH), WHO Bangladesh initiated efforts to strengthen MHPSS preparedness nationwide to build sustainable mental health services and improve disaster risk management.

WHO and UNHCR co-organized a national workshop in Cox Bazar from December 2-4, focusing on operationalizing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in disaster risk management.

The three-day training, based on the MHPSS READY package, covered risk reduction for mental health during hazards like fires, floods, and cyclones. The workshop aimed to promote effective MHPSS before, during, and after emergencies, with over 50 participants from government, NGO, and UN agencies.

Multi stakeholder Workshop on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis



Stakeholders pledge to intensify efforts against GBV.
Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che/WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Health Sector and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), organised a stakeholder symposium in Cox's Bazar on December 5, 2024.

This event was part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) 2024, aimed at raising awareness about the prevention and mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence in the Rohingya refugee camps. [Read more](#)

Capacity Building Workshop for PHEOC Team



IEDCR Director delivering her speech.
Photo: WHE staff/WHO

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), supported by WHO and RKI, organized a five-day capacity-building workshop from October 20–24, 2024.

The workshop, aimed at enhancing PHEOC personnel's operational capacity through a "training of trainers" approach, focused on developing a needs-based, multi-module capacity-building package for Bangladesh's national emergency response framework. The event concluded with certificate presentations by Dr. Anthony Eshofonie (WHE Team Lead) and Prof. (Dr.) Tahmina Shirin (IEDCR Director).

Observed World Mental Health Day 2024!

On October 10, 2024, Bangladesh observed World Mental Health Day to raise awareness and support mental health efforts.

The Government of Bangladesh organized rallies and seminars in Jashore, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj, Kurigram, Jhenaidah, Bandarban, Sherpur, Khulna, Netrokona, and Noakhali, with the theme "It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace," supported by the World Health Organization.

These events aimed to reduce stigma, increase awareness, and encourage treatment. Over 1,200 participants, including local leaders, medical professionals, students, and representatives from government and non-governmental organizations, collaborated to create a supportive mental health environment in Bangladesh.



Rally to observe the mental Health Day 2024.
Photo: Dr U Swai Ching Marma /WHO

WHO Bangladesh Updates

WR's Impactful Visit to Cox's Bazar

Dr. Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, visited the WHO Emergency sub-office in Cox's Bazar from December 8th to 10th, 2024. He toured key camp areas, met with the Civil Surgeon, received briefings from WHO team leads, and attended the Healthy and Respectful Workplace event.



Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che/WHO

WHO Bangladesh staff celebrated a Respectful, Safe, and Healthy Workplace event!

The WHO Bangladesh organized a day-long event for its staff to celebrate a Respectful, Safe, and Healthy Workplace. The event took place in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar on December 5th and 10th, 2024.

The day began with an inaugural session in which WHO representative Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed delivered a welcome speech, emphasizing the importance of a respectful workplace and how we can collectively contribute to fostering such an environment. Ms. Pudentienne, the PRS Coordinator of WHO Bangladesh, outlined the objectives of the event and moderated the sessions.

The event featured team-building activities focused on managing and embracing diversity, promoting inclusion, enhancing emotional intelligence, and developing coping mechanisms for better stress management in the workplace. With active participation from all staff, the event provided an opportunity for staff members to share knowledge and exchange ideas.

The event was organized by the WHO Bangladesh HR, Staff Association, and the PRS Unit. [Watch more](#)



Group photo!
Photo: external photographer

key stakeholders' consultative workshop focused on the revision of Bangladesh's HCFS.



Photo: Dr. Subrata Paul/HEU

From December 21 to 23, 2024, the Health Economics Unit (HEU) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), in collaboration with WHO Bangladesh and the Embassy of Sweden, hosted a consultative workshop with key stakeholders focused on revising Bangladesh's Health Care Financing Strategy (HCFS). Chaired by Dr. Enamul Haque, Director General of HEU, the workshop brought together 33 key stakeholders, including senior officials from the Ministries of Health, Finance, and Local Government, members of the Health Sector Reform Commission, as well as representatives from academia, civil society, and international development partners.

The workshop aimed to engage stakeholders in refining the HCFS to address existing gaps and better align the strategy with Bangladesh's evolving health needs. Discussions centered on identifying and prioritizing strategic actions and policy directions to achieve health financing goals.

A WHO consultant from Thailand facilitated the workshop, sharing insights on global health financing reforms and their relevance to Bangladesh. In the concluding session, Dr. Enamul Haque, DG of HEU, emphasized the need for collective action to ensure the revised HCFS addresses current challenges and supports sustainable UHC in Bangladesh. The workshop concluded with actionable recommendations for revising the health care financing strategy.

Spotlight!

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

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

[Bangladesh COVID 19 Situation Report](#)

[WR's message on AMR](#)

[WR's message on 16 days of activism](#)

[DWR's message on HPV vaccination](#)

WHO Bangladesh Updates

WHO Bangladesh's Participation in FICSA Training Workshop



Group photo!
Photo: WRPO regional staff

The Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA) organized a three-day training workshop on General Service Salary Survey Methodology II for non-headquarters duty stations, held from November 12–14, 2024.

The workshop took place at the WHO Regional Office in Manila and brought together 19 participants, including Mr. Shah Earshadul Alam and Md. Mohasin Azad, who represented WHO Bangladesh. The workshop aimed to enhance participants' knowledge and capacity to conduct local salary surveys in line with the ICSC Salary Survey Methodology II. Facilitated by Mr. Irwan Mohd Razali and Ms. Angelita H. Madrangca, the event offered a well-structured and informative learning experience.

The workshop provided an excellent platform to deepen participants' understanding of the ICSC methodology, enhance practical skills, and build a network for future collaboration. The facilitators ensured an engaging and effective learning experience.

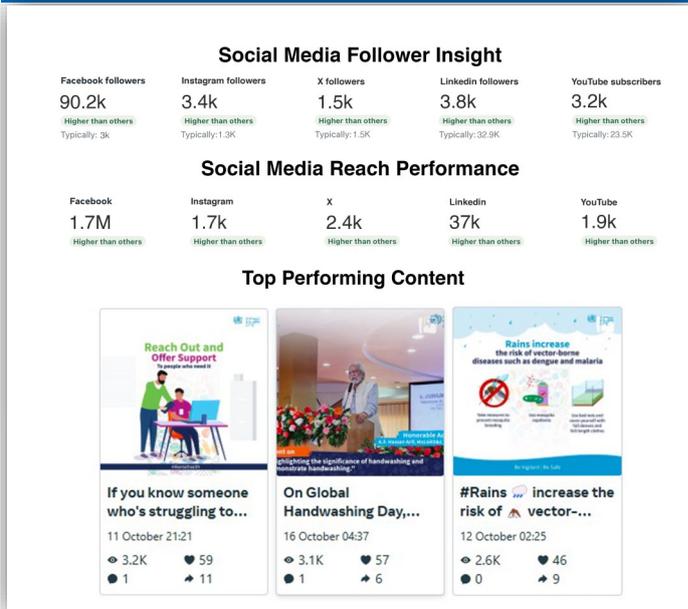
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