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## 2nd GWCC meeting highlights strong MoHFW–WHO collaboration and programme progress



Participants are engaged in the discussion. Photo : WHO staff

The 2nd GWCC meeting was held on 2 December 2025 to review progress under the WHO collaborative programme for PB 2024–25 and to endorse the MoHFW–WHO biennial workplan for wPB 2026–27. The meeting addressed several strategic issues, including PDPM appointments, financial modalities, revision of the PDPM guidelines, and the promotion of sustainable practices in joint events. Senior officials emphasized the importance of strong collaboration between MoHFW and WHO, as well as accountability and effective leadership. WHO highlighted global funding challenges and underscored the need for enhanced resource mobilization. Progress updates indicated a 91% budget utilization rate as of October 2025, with projections expected to reach 96% by the end of the year, alongside notable achievements across health systems strengthening, disease control, emergency preparedness, and the Rohingya response.

## Nationwide TCV campaign strengthens child health in Bangladesh



Schoolchildren display their online vaccination cards during TCV vaccination. Photo: WHO staff/WHO

Bangladesh’s nationwide Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) campaign marked a major public health milestone, driven by strong government leadership, effective partner coordination, and practical field planning. The campaign prioritized children in high-risk areas, with special efforts to reach urban slums, hard-to-reach locations, and underserved communities to ensure equitable access. In 2025, the campaign aimed to vaccinate 43.79 million children aged 9 months to under 15 years, making it one of the largest single-antigen vaccination efforts globally. By the end of the campaign, 42.47 million children had been vaccinated through fixed sites, outreach, and mop-up activities, achieving an impressive 97% administrative coverage across all districts, upazilas, municipalities, hard-to-reach areas, and city corporations. A well-trained health workforce, strong community engagement, and robust monitoring systems ensured safe, high-quality service delivery. Beyond reducing the burden of typhoid fever, the campaign strengthened immunization systems and generated valuable lessons for future large-scale public health initiatives. Community engagement played a central role, with government officials, local leaders, teachers, volunteers, and other influencers spreading clear, trusted messages that supported successful TCV vaccination. In this campaign WHO build national capacity and ensured the campaign guided by evidence, quality and strong government leadership.

## Ensuring every child is reached: Deputy WHO Representative monitor TCV campaign



Deputy WHO representative interacted with parents, health workers, and volunteers during the visit. Photo: WHO staff

The Dy WHO representative to Bangladesh Dr Rajesh Narwal conducted a field visit to Chattogram to review the TCV campaign. The visit included courtesy meetings with the divisional director of health and the chief health officer of Chattogram city corporation, during which campaign progress, key challenges, and corrective measures were discussed. Field visits were carried out at several vaccination centers and health facilities in Patiya and Chandanaish Upazilas. The Dy WR, accompanied by the NPO EPI, DC and SIMO Chatogram, observed vaccination sessions, verified the vaccination status of eligible children, and interacted with parents, health workers, and volunteers. The vaccination sessions were found to be well organized, with good attendance. The visit also highlighted the need to further strengthen community awareness, identify left-out children, and intensify social mobilization through house visits and local announcements to ensure equitable TCV coverage.

## Typhoid vaccination safeguards Rohingya children



The South-East Asia Regional Practice of All-Hazard IHR Event Communication Exercise. Photo: WHO staff

Nearly half a million Rohingya children in Cox's Bazar are now better protected against typhoid fever following their inclusion in Bangladesh's nationwide TCV campaign. With technical support from WHO and health partners, the dedicated campaign phase in Ukhiya and Teknaf ensured that children living in one of the country's highest-risk settings received life-saving protection as part of the broader national effort to reduce typhoid transmission.

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## A united effort for a healthier Bangladesh



WHO Representative during the discussion  
Photo: WHO staff

The MoHFW, with support from WHO, convened a high-level inter-ministerial meeting on 20 October 2025 to advance efforts to address NCDs and mental health issues. Senior officials from various ministries including, Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education Division, Technical and Madrasah Education Division, Ministry of Housing & Public works, Local Government Division, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports came together to finalize action plans aimed at reducing the burden of NCDs and achieving SDG 3.4, which targets a reduction in premature deaths by 2030.

## WHO representative visits hard-to-reach areas to support TCV and immunization efforts



WHO Representative Visits community clinic at Pabna to Boost Vaccination and Health Collaboration  
Photo: WHO staff

The WHO Representative to Bangladesh Dr Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed visited Rajshahi and Pabna to observe the TCV campaign, review routine immunization and electronic EPI initiatives, and strengthen collaboration with government, academic, and development partners. During a courtesy meeting with senior officials and partners, discussions focused on the public health situation in Rajshahi Division, enhancing surveillance and outbreak preparedness, improving urban health services, and expanding WHO technical support across priority areas. The visit reaffirmed a shared commitment to stronger coordination and improved health outcomes.

## Government-WHO Monitoring Meeting Reviews Progress on Key Health Programmes



Meeting participants in the group photo.  
Photo: WHO staff

The Government-WHO monitoring meeting (GWMM) was held on 25 November 2025 in Dhaka to review the implementation of the Government biennial workplan (PB 2024-25). Programme Directors and Managers presented progress updates, supported by WHO's technical analysis, to assess achievements and financial performance. The meeting noted strong progress across key programme areas, including immunization, NCDs, maternal and child health, emergency preparedness, and the Rohingya response. Major achievements highlighted included the nationwide TCV campaign, which reached 42.47 million children with 97% coverage, and HPV vaccination for 7.2 million girls. Discussions focused on addressing bottlenecks, fast-tracking priority activities, and ensuring the timely closure of all deliverables before the end of the biennium, with continued technical support from WHO.

## Advancing infection prevention through WHO-BMU partnership



WHO and Bangladesh Medical University teams.  
Photo: Dr Murad Sultan/WHO

Bangladesh has made significant progress in strengthening IPC in recent years, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. With technical support from WHO, the DGHS has developed a National Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guideline and established IPC committees in numerous public hospitals. WHO and BMU have signed a MoU to strengthen IPC practices, reinforcing Bangladesh's commitment to delivering safer, higher-quality healthcare.

[Read more](#)

## Strengthening Maternal Health for Rohingya Mothers in Cox's Bazar



WHO-trained midwives support Ansar Begum's newborn.  
Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che/WHO

In Cox's Bazar, every birth is a delicate balance between hope and risk. For mothers like Ansar Begum, living in the world's largest refugee settlement, home to more than one million Rohingya refugees, access to skilled care can mean the difference between life and death. Maternal mortality remains among the highest globally, and each delivery carries a fragile hope. Targeted interventions are helping to change this reality. Through training of health workers, strengthen community engagement, and health systems supported by WHO and health partners, more women are now able to access timely, skilled care during pregnancy.

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## Capacity building on socio emotional learning in Bangladesh-Preventing Suicides



Dr Rajesh Narwal, Dy WHO representative delivering his remarks,  
Photo: external photographer

WHO organized a five-day workshop titled "Conducting LIVE LIFE for Suicide Prevention in Bangladesh: Fostering Socio-Emotional Life Skills of Young People" from 23 to 27 November 2025, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Moner Bondhu. The workshop's closing ceremony, held on 27 November, was attended by Professor Dr Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder, Honorable Adviser, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education; Dr Rajesh Narwal, WHO Deputy Representative to Bangladesh along with other government high officials.

## From outbreak to action: Cholera in Rohingya communities



Health workers and WASH partners discuss response protocols during a WHO-led cholera preparedness simulation in Cox's Bazar. Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che/WHO

By mid-2024, cholera spread rapidly across the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee settlement, where overcrowding and limited access to safe water and sanitation placed vulnerable populations, especially children, at high risk. Between June 2024 and January 2025, 581 cholera cases were confirmed, nearly 40% among children under five. In January 2025, the World Health Organization, the Government of Bangladesh, and health partners launched a mass Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) campaign targeting Rohingya refugees and nearby host communities. The campaign vaccinated 976,751 people, achieving 103.6% coverage, with children accounting for 42% (410,235) of those reached. [Read more](#)

## Nearly one million Rohingya benefited from WHO scabies drive



A community health worker administers ivermectin during the MDA campaign in Camp 18. Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che/WHO

From November 2023 to February 2024, WHO, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and health partners, led the world's largest scabies MDA campaign, reaching nearly one million Rohingya refugees across 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char Island. Health workers distributed over 5.2 million ivermectin tablets and 185,000 tubes of permethrin cream, following WHO guidelines for children, pregnant women, and people with underlying conditions. [Read more](#)

## Bangladesh advances UHC: WHO hosts 2026–2035 roadmap consultation



Group photo from the WHO-MOHFW consultation on UHC in Bangladesh. Photo: WHO/Staff

On 23 November, a technical consultation was organized by WHO and MOHFW, to bring together senior policymakers, high-level government officials, researchers, development partners, and health experts. The consultation served as a platform to present the draft, exchange lessons from other countries and gather insights and feedback from experts to shape Bangladesh's next steps toward Universal Health Coverage. [Read more](#)

## Development of National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS)



WHO experts from SEARO and HQ in the open discussion. Photo: WHO/Staff

Bangladesh organized a series of workshops to develop the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) 2026–2030, comprising a five-year Strategic NAPHS and a 12–24-month Operational NAPHS. The process followed the recommendations of the second Joint External Evaluation (JEE) 2024. The final workshop, held from 27–29 October 2025, brought together over 80 stakeholders from health security-related sectors and key partners to draft the plan. From SEARO, Dr. Ruben and his team, along with Dr. Anthony from WCO, government officials, and WHO experts at all three levels who facilitated the workshop. NAPHS is a country-led, multi-year framework to accelerate implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and strengthen Bangladesh's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.

## Coordinated action for a healthier Bangladesh: a crucial turning point for generations to come



Dr. Sheikh Abdur Rashid, Cabinet Secretary delivering his remark at the meeting.  
Photo: WHO staff

On 8 December 2025, the Government of Bangladesh convened the third-phase of a high-level inter-ministerial meeting to advance implementation of the Joint Declaration and strengthen coordinated action toward a healthier Bangladesh. The meeting marked a significant milestone in aligning multi-sectoral efforts to improve population health outcomes. The meeting was graced by Dr. Sheikh Abdur Rashid, Cabinet Secretary, as the Chief Guest and chaired by Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Secretary, Health Services Division. Senior officials from a wide range of ministries and divisions, along with the Director General of Health Services, participated in the discussion. The WHO Representative to Bangladesh, Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, was also present, reaffirming WHO's continued support for a whole-of-government action on health.

## From evidence to action: Bangladesh advances toward health-related SDGs



Bangladesh's commitment to quality health for all by 2030- Chief guest and other guests are on the dais.  
Photo: WHO staff

Bangladesh remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring quality health services for all by 2030. At a national workshop organized by the MoHFW with the support from the WHO, policymakers and experts reviewed mid-term progress toward achieving the health-related SDGs. In her remarks, Hon'ble health Adviser Ms. Nurjahan Begum highlighted key achievements, including the deployment of 3,500 new nurses, and called for collective action to further strengthen health systems and address remaining challenges.

## WHO launched program budget workplan for Bangladesh



Ms Sheikh Momena Moni, Additional Secretary (WH) addressed at the consultation meeting, Photo: WHO/Staff

The WHO has launched the 2026-2027 programme budget workplan for Bangladesh, co-developed through a consultative process with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Workplan will guide the Government of Bangladesh's national health action over the next two years. WHO's mission for 2025-2028, Promote, Provide and Protect Health, is being translated into concrete action in Bangladesh through the newly launched 2026-2027 Programme Budget Workplan. The Workplan focuses on three key areas: promoting health and wellbeing while preventing avoidable illness and death; expanding universal health coverage and strengthening health systems; and protecting communities through enhanced preparedness for and response to health emergencies. Collectively, these priorities aim to ensure the global health goals deliver tangible and measurable impact for people across Bangladesh during 2026 and 2027.

## WHO, MOHFW Join Forces on World AIDS Day 2025



Together for a stronger AIDS response - World AIDS Day 2025  
Photo: WHO staff

On World AIDS Day 2025, WHO joined the MOHFW to observe the day under the theme "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response." The event was attended by Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Zafar, Director General, DGHS, as Chief Guest, along with Ms. Sheikh Momena Moni, Additional Secretary (WH), HSD; Deputy WHO Representative Dr. Rajesh Narwal; and representatives from civil society, academia, and development partners. WHO and MOHFW reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding progress and ensuring that no one is left behind in the AIDS response.

## Bangladesh moves to integrate NCD and mental health care into emergency preparedness



Participants assess gaps to strengthen NCD and mental health services in emergencies.  
Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che

On 11 December 2025, the Government of Bangladesh and the World Health Organization organized an inception meeting in Cox's Bazar, on the integration of NCDs into emergency preparedness and response. The meeting brought together subnational health authorities, humanitarian partners, UN agencies, and technical experts to explore practical strategies for ensure continuity of care during disasters and humanitarian crises.

“Ensuring that people living with chronic diseases and mental health conditions continue to receive care during disasters is not optional. It is a fundamental part of building a resilient health system. Bangladesh is committed to integrating NCDs into emergency preparedness so that care never stops, regardless of the crisis.” stated Dr Rajesh Narwal, Deputy WHO Representative, emphasizing the importance of integrating NCD care. [Read more](#)

## Spotlight

[Early Warning, Alert and Response System \(EWARS\)](#)  
[WHO Cox's Bazar: Rohingya emergency crisis situation report](#)  
[Health Sector Bulletin](#)  
[Bangladesh COVID 19 Situation Report](#)  
[WR's sound bites](#)

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[Pinterest](#), [Snapchat](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#)

## Global handwashing day 2025 observed



Students of Banani Bidda Niketon show their support for the handwashing campaign.  
Photo: WHO staff

Global Handwashing Day 2025 was observed on 15 October at Banani Bidyaniketan School & College, Dhaka, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Engineering, WHO, and UNICEF. Celebrated under the theme “Be a Handwashing Hero!”, the event highlighted the vital role of proper hand hygiene in protecting health and preventing disease at home, in schools, workplaces, and healthcare settings. The event was graced by senior representatives from the Government of Bangladesh and UN agencies, including Eng. Mir Abdus Shahid, Chief Engineer, DPHE; Dr. Jamsheed Ahmed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh; Ms. Deepika Sharma, Deputy Representative of UNICEF; and Mr. Md. Rezaul Maksud Jahedi, Secretary, Local Government Division, who chaired the event.

## UPCOMING

[# World Leprosy Day: 25 January](#)  
[# World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day: 30 January](#)  
[# World hearing Day: 2 March](#)  
[# World TB Day: 24 March](#)  
[# Orientation Programs PDPMs](#)