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WHO Representative presented his credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Handover momentum!
Photo: Mohasin Azad, WHO

The WHO Representative to Bangladesh, Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, presented his credentials to the Honourable Adviser for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain, on 11 September 2025 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, they discussed Bangladesh's health sector priorities, ongoing needs, and current collaboration with WHO. Dr. Jamsheed reaffirmed WHO's strong commitment to supporting the Government of Bangladesh in advancing shared public health goals under WHO's mandate.

Building Bridges for Better Health: Bangladesh's Multisectoral Commitment to NCDs and Mental Well-being



The guests are on stage at the Chief Adviser's Office
Photo: external Photographer

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are not only a medical challenge but also a major socioeconomic threat, placing significant strain on the health system, increasing poverty, and hindering national development. Effective prevention and control of NCDs require coordinated action that extends well beyond the Ministry of Health, engaging all sectors of government and society.

Recognizing this need, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), in collaboration with the WHO Country Office, initiated a transformative approach to addressing NCDs. This began with a high-level consultation with Secretaries from 20 different ministries on 3 June 2025. Building on this momentum, Bangladesh took a significant step forward on 20 August 2025. With technical support from WHO, the Government of Bangladesh convened Secretaries from 35 ministries and divisions to sign a Joint Declaration on Strengthening Interministerial Collaboration for Multisectoral Action on NCD Prevention and Control, marking a milestone in the nation's commitment to tackling NCDs and mental health through a whole-of-government approach. [Read more](#)



A historic momentum with 35 ministries in the advocacy meeting.
Photo: external Photographer

NIMH and WHO advance Suicide Prevention Efforts under the LIVE LIFE Framework



Group photo of the participants. Photo: WHO staff

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and WHO Bangladesh jointly organized two events on 27 and 28 August 2025, focusing on Suicide Prevention Inception and Situation Analysis, in alignment with WHO's LIVE LIFE framework. The events brought together government officials, experts, and stakeholders to strengthen Bangladesh's suicide prevention response. Sessions introduced the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health (SIMH) and LIVE LIFE interventions, highlighting global best practices and their relevance to Bangladesh. Through interactive group discussions, participants identified existing gaps, challenges, and priorities for national action. Both events concluded with a shared commitment to advancing suicide prevention and strengthening mental health services across the country.

Enhancing Multisectoral Collaboration for Food Safety in Bangladesh



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

The South-East Asia Regional Practice of All-Hazard IHR Event Communication Exercise (SAPHIRE) is an annual simulation exercise organized by the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), with support from WHO Country Offices across the region. The exercise aims to test and strengthen event communication mechanisms both within and between Member States, enhancing their capacity to implement the International Health Regulations (IHR) and improve public health emergency preparedness and response. On 8 July 2025, Bangladesh, led by the National IHR Focal Point and supported by WHO Country Office Bangladesh, participated in the third edition of SAPHIRE, reaffirming its commitment to regional collaboration and IHR compliance. [Read more](#)

Boosting Health Worker Skills to Safeguard Water and Prevent Infections in Rohingya Camps



Hands-on demonstrations session during the training. Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che, WHO

To safeguard water quality and prevent infections in the Rohingya camps, WHO Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Health Sector and the Civil Surgeon's Office, conducted a training from 14–16 July 2025 to strengthen Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices. More than 100 participants, including medical staff and IPC/WASH focal points, were trained on key topics such as water chlorination, healthcare waste management, disinfection, sterilization, and IPC service delivery. The training employed a combination of interactive lectures, hands-on demonstrations, and group exercises to enhance participants' practical understanding and application of the concepts. [Read more](#)

Stakeholder Consultation on Health Workforce Action Plan Towards UHC 2030 and Beyond



A high-level stakeholder consultation was held at CIRDAP to finalize the Health Workforce Action Plan aligned with achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030. The event was organized by the Human Resources Branch, HSD, in collaboration with WHO Bangladesh. Prof. Dr. Md Sayedur Rahman, Hon'ble Special Assistant (State Minister), MoHFW, attended as Chief Guest, with Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, as Special Guest. Dr. Tim Evans, Vice President of Concordia University and former WHO ADG, along with Dr. Piya Hanvoravongchai, Health Financing Specialist from Thailand, led technical discussions as WHO external experts. Speakers emphasized the urgent need for a strong, well-distributed health workforce to achieve UHC and SDG targets.

Rapid Alert, Faster Response: WHO Reviews EWARS in Refugee Camps



Dr Masaya Kato, WHO SEARO, meets with a healthcare provider to strengthen EWARS implementation in the field.
Photo: Terence Ngwabe Che.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), and the Civil Surgeon's Office of Cox's Bazar, conducted a comprehensive review of the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The review included a one-day Intra-Action Review (IAR) workshop held on 24 July 2025, followed by key informant interviews and field record reviews conducted from 25 to 30 July. [Read more](#)

Making Bangladesh Healthier: 2025 Dietary Guidelines Disseminated



Guests are with National Dietary Guidelines 2025
Photo: WHO staff

The updated National Dietary Guidelines 2025 were officially launched on 14 September at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. Developed under the leadership of the National Nutrition Services and Food Policy Monitoring Unit, with WHO's technical support, the guidelines provide a comprehensive, food-based approach to improve health and nutrition. They include general, age-specific, and disease-specific dietary recommendations for clinicians, nutritionists, and dietitians. The event was graced by Md. Saidur Rahman, Secretary, Health Services Division, MoHFW, and attended by representatives from WHO, FAO, BIRDEM, FPMU, and DGHS. Speakers highlighted the importance of multisectoral integration and reaffirmed support their commitment to implementing the guidelines. Dr. Rajesh Narwal, Deputy WHO Representative, emphasized the integration of the guidelines into policies across the food, health, and education sectors and reaffirmed WHO's continued support for their implementation.

Transforming Health Through Digital Innovation



The WHO Representative delivered a speech at the Convergence Workshop on the Digital Transformation of Bangladesh's Health System

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), with support from WHO, hosted a Convergence Workshop on Digital Transformation of Bangladesh's Health System at Hotel Sonargaon. This event marked a milestone toward an integrated and equitable digital health ecosystem.

The workshop brought together representatives from more than 20 ministries and government agencies, including the Cabinet Division, ICT Division, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Land, and Ministry of Social Welfare, alongside academia, development partners, the private sector, and national and international digital health experts.

The event was chaired by Prof. Dr. Md. Sayedur Rahman, Honorable Special Assistant, MoHFW; Md Saidur Rahman, Secretary, Health Service Division, MoHFW; and Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh as special guest. In his remarks, Prof. Dr. Md. Sayedur Rahman emphasized digital health as a national priority and appreciated WHO's guidance on standards, frameworks, and technical support. Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, highlighted that digital health extends beyond the health sector, requiring cross-government, private sector, and community collaboration to align Bangladesh with the global digital health agenda.

Stakeholders reinforced the importance of establishing a National Digital Health Authority and adopting the Architecture Blueprint for Digital Health as the guiding framework for Bangladesh's digital health transformation. The workshop was supported by the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), a WHO-hosted network promoting country-led digital health transformation through collaboration and knowledge exchange.

National stakeholder consultation to update the National Essential Medicines List



Government counterpart and WHO on the guest table.
Photo: WHO staff

WHO is supporting Bangladesh in updating its National Essential Medicines List (NEML), a significant step toward ensuring equitable access to essential medicines, a fundamental component of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). To update the NEML, a two-day national stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 27–28 August 2025 in Dhaka, bringing together over 100 clinicians, pharmacists, academics, and policymakers. Participants provided technical inputs to ensure the updated list reflects the country's disease burden, national treatment guidelines, and priority health needs. The inaugural event was presided over by Professor Sayedur Rahman, Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor, MoHFW; Dr Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh; Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Jafor, DG, DGHS; and Prof. Dr. Md. Shahinul Alam, VC of BMU and Chairperson of the NEML Taskforce. [Read more](#)

Nationwide Prescription Survey 2025: Improving Rational Medicine Use in Bangladesh



Photo: WHO staff

WHO, in collaboration with the DGHS, conducted a nine-month nationwide prescription audit covering 250 health facilities and over 23,000 prescriptions. The findings revealed a strong preference for brand-name medicines, limited use of generics, and higher prescribing rates in private facilities compared to public ones. Recommendations include: developing standard prescription guidelines, institutionalizing audits, introducing digital prescribing linked to patient IDs, and strengthening pharmacists' roles to promote rational medicine use nationwide.

Action Plan meeting on the Joint Declaration for NCD Prevention and Control



Guests of the workshop Photo: WHO/Staff

In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized a Follow-up Meeting on the Joint Declaration for NCD Prevention and Control in Bangladesh on 29 September 2025 at the Cabinet Division Building, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Under the leadership of the Cabinet Division and MOHFW, Secretaries from six key ministries, Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock, Food, Industries, Commerce, and Health, along with heads of their respective agencies, convened to identify ministry- and agency-specific actions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

The key focus areas included: Promoting healthy diets, strengthening tobacco control and Advancing suicide prevention. This meeting builds on the momentum of the historic Joint Declaration signed by 35 ministries on 20 August 2025.

In addition to outlining specific actions, participating ministries agreed on a monitoring and review mechanism to ensure progress and accountability. The WHO provided technical support throughout the process.

WHO Initiative on urban governance for health and well-being



Photo: WHO/Staff

When the monsoon rains returned to Khulna City last year, so did dengue. Driven by rapid urbanization, inadequate waste management, and the impact of climate change, mosquito-borne diseases have long posed a serious challenge to the city. In 2025, however, a new force emerged to confront this threat, the community itself.

[Read the full story](#)

Learning from Narita: Japan's Airport Health Model Inspires Bangladesh's Next Leap in Border Health



Bangladeshi Delegates review Plant Quarantine Procedures at Narita Airport.
Photo: WHO staff

A delegation of IHR-POE experts from Bangladesh, supported by the WHO, visited Japan to conduct bilateral discussions on the International Health Regulations (IHR). The visit, held from June 23–24, 2025, included senior officials from the DGHS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the visit, the delegation engaged with relevant officials from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), the Narita Airport Quarantine Station, and the Animal and Plant Quarantine Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. [Read more](#)

Collaborative Workshop with CSOs and CBOs: Strengthening Prevention and Response to Sexual Misconduct



Active participation of the Participants
Photo: WHO staff

WHO recognizes the vital role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in engaging communities, especially during public health emergencies. CSOs help share information, promote understanding of health measures, and address community-specific needs. In this context, WHO and the PSEA Network are collaborating with CSOs to strengthen public health initiatives, including preventing and responding to sexual misconduct.

Aligned with WHO's 3Es, Enable, Empower, Engage, a joint consultation workshop was held on 15 September 2025 in Cox's Bazar with 36 participants. The workshop aimed to empower CSOs in decision-making and shared accountability, strengthening resilience to health emergencies and safeguarding communities from sexual misconduct. The PSEAH Network and WHO provided guidance on safeguarding practices and SOPs, while group discussions gathered feedback to improve SEAH mitigation strategies in health service delivery.

WHO and BMU partner to Establish National Model for Infection Prevention and Control



WHO Health System unit of WHO and BMU representatives are in the meeting.
Photo: BMU staff

The World Health Organization (WHO) is collaborating with Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) to establish a sustainable, high-quality Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) system, aiming to position BMU as a national model for healthcare institutions across Bangladesh. Hospital-acquired infections remain a significant challenge, affecting patient safety and increasing healthcare costs. This partnership seeks to address these issues through structured, system-wide improvements. A kickoff meeting was held on 8 July 2025 at BMU, chaired by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Md. Shahinul Alam. The meeting brought together BMU's senior leadership and a WHO delegation led by Ms. Sangay Wangmo, Team Lead, Health Systems Unit, WHO Bangladesh. During the meeting, both parties jointly outlined an action plan for implementing IPC strategies across BMU hospitals and laboratories. [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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UPCOMING

[# World Mental Health Day: 10 October](#)
[# World AMR Awareness Week: 18-24 November](#)
[# World Diabetes Day: 14 November](#)
[# International Day of Person with Disability: 3 December](#)
[# Universal Health Coverage Day: 12 December](#)