

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN 2021

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### **In-person training of ARISE Co-researchers**

**Title:** Co-researcher selection and training on GIS Mapping:

**Date:** 26.01.2021 (Dholpur, Shyampur) and 27.01.2021 (Kallyanpur)

**Facilitator:** Imran Hossain Mithu, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

**Attendees:** 6 co-researchers of ARISE (Shyampur- Tanbir, Tumpa; Dholpur- Sweety, Jummon & Kallyanpur- Billal, Esha)

Six co-researchers (2 from each site – one female and one male) have been selected from three study sites. They were given one day basic training at the end of January 2021 on GIS mapping using a mobile app. After the basic training, they have started collecting GIS location coordinates of different important infrastructures and locations in their settlements in February 2021. One researcher from the ARISE Bangladesh team, who is trained on GIS mapping, regularly provided them on-job training and troubleshooting support. The group virtually meets once a week and shares their reflections. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, one face-to-face reflexivity session with all six co-researchers was organized in February 2021 at JPGSPH office where they shared their experiences, the challenges they faced while collecting data and also made some suggestions. The co-researchers and researchers also collectively made some decisions and plans. The reflexivity session guideline co-developed by ARISE Hub partners was also pilot tested in that session and the feedback was shared with LSTM and Kenya researchers.

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### **In-person training of CDOs- ARISE Responsive Fund**

**Title:** Health Hygiene and COVID awareness training for CDO and Ward committee leaders

**Date:** 28.03.2021 (Rajshahi) and 29.03.2021 (Khulna)

**Facilitator:** The training officers of BRAC UDP

**Attendees:** Councilors, Councilor of Khulna named Shamsuzzaman Miah and the Councilor of Rajshahi Mohammed Arman Ali were also present along with CDO members, CDO presidents and vice presidents.

Two training sessions have been conducted in Rajshahi (Baze kazla) and Khulna (Greenland) to spread awareness about COVID-19. Through these sessions, 60 (30 at each site) Community Development Organizations (CDO) members and Ward committee leaders were equipped with knowledge to combat the situation. The trainers from BRAC UDP have taken a half day session with the 60 personnel to train them regarding personal hygiene, community hygiene, physical distancing, wand washing techniques, health, and nutrition during COVID-19 and so on. Besides, as the leader of their respective communities, they have been aware about their roles and responsibilities.

## Virtual training on using R software for Statistical analysis

**i) Title: Learning statistical analysis using R software**

**Date:** March 10, 2021

**Facilitator:** Proloy Barua - an Assistant Scientist at James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University (BRAC JPGSPH) has been facilitating the training since March '21

**Attendees:** Few ARISE team members – Imran Hossain, Tasmiah Selim (former) and Afsana Yeamin

The training has been conducted once in a week where the trainer Proloy barua discussed and gave hands on experience on R software, statistical analysis, data management, data cleaning etc.



**ii) Training sessions with data enumerators:** The research team arranged nine days long quantitative data collection training with 33 data enumerators in January 2021 for baseline research. In March 2021 data collection was completed in 1-10 FDMN camps and four wards in host communities, Rajapalong and Palong Khali union, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The research team conducted day-long discussion sessions with the

enumerators to record the challenges and feedback related to the qualitative and quantitative research.

### **iii) Training session with Youth Volunteers (YVs) and Community workshop:**

Project implementation partner Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), BRAC University developed a training module on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response for Youth Volunteers. BRAC JPGSPH shared the research findings and indicators with CPJ to develop a compact training module. CPJ organized three days of



separated training sessions with twenty YVs from FDMN and ten YVs from host communities in January 2021. Youth volunteers facilitated workshops to raise awareness and preparedness on the COVID-19 pandemic among the MVGs in FDMN and the host community. CPJ is also in the process of partnerships with five Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in host communities and 10 organizations in FDMN camps. This partnership aims to provide support for the organization's capacity development to COVID-19 responses.

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## **Training on Health Hygiene and COVID-19 Awareness**

**Date:** 17-18 August 2021 | **Participants:** 22 (26 Female, 6 Male)

**Description:** ARISE Bangladesh is currently working with BRAC UDP in Shyampur, an informal settlement located at the edge of Kadamtali Thana, under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). With the support of ARISE Responsive Fund, BRAC UDP and BRAC JPGSPH have organized two days long health hygiene and COVID-19 awareness training for Community Development Organization (CDO) members & Ward committee leaders of Shyampur, Dhaka, on August 17, 2021. There were 22 participants (16 female and 6 male) in the training session. In this training, the CDO and Ward committee members have been informed about their personal health and hygiene obligations and have learned about their responsibilities regarding health as members of their community. As the COVID-19 pandemic is persisting in communities, personal and community hygiene has been a prime focus. Through the mentioned training, CDO and ward committee members have been provided with comprehensive knowledge of COVID-19— how to minimize the spread, care if infected, quarantine rules, etc. Since CDO and Ward committee members are influential in their respective communities, they can cascade this information to the rest of the communities. CDO and Ward committee are the two important local governance actors who are influential and have a good reach in the community.

In order to build community leadership, BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) supports the community to form Community Development Organizations (CDO) where each CDO represents a cluster of 300 to 500 households inside the targeted slum. Other vital local governance actors are the Ward committee members who are representatives of a particular ward who represent various interests (ie. water, sanitation, education, etc.) within the ward which is chaired by the ward councillor. They are meant to be an institutionalized channel of communication and interaction between communities and municipalities. The objective of interacting with these local governance actors is to ensure community participation in the development of initiatives and to promote women participation in decision making. CDOs, as the representatives of their own community, play the primary role in representing the voice of their community to the governance actors like ward councillors, local elected members of the Local Government, city authorities and other formal service providers. To ensure community's participation in all stages of interventions' implementation.

**Organised by:** BRAC UDP and BRAC JPGSPH

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## Leadership training of CDOs and ward committee leaders

The CDOs and the ward committee members are the most trusted people in the community. They are the local influential who have good reach within the community. In order to strengthen their capacities to raise voices and analyse & negotiate with local governance actors like local councillors, community leaders, leadership training are organised under the ARISE Responsive Fund. These training will help them to understand their roles as the leaders of their settlements.

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## In-house training on R software

**Date:** 6 June 2021 and 27 July 2021 | **Participants:** 2

**Description:** In-house quantitative methods expert, Proloy Barua has been conducting virtual training sessions on using the R software for statistical analysis for members of the ARISE Bangladesh team (Imran Hossain, Afsana Yeamin). In this quarter there were two training sessions conducted- one was on 6 June 2021, and 27 July 2021. The following topics were discussed:

June 6, 2021: Data cleaning, using some packages required from secondary data analysis using R software

July 27, 2021: Viewing variables in R software, creating new variables from existing variables, demonstration of some R functions and making lists in R software.

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## Contact Tracing & Case Monitoring app” development, training of CHWs of BRAC HCMP and implementation of the contact tracing activities

A Contact tracing and case monitoring app was developed and contextualized by the project partners in January 2021. The app was developed with the aim of screening individuals in order to identify suspected COVID- 19 cases, close contacts, and high risk population groups. The app was designed in such a way that community awareness can be raised in both the communities addressing the existing myths and misconceptions with regard to COVID-19. In addition, BRAC CHWs tried to explore the effect of COVID- 19 on



mental health and well-being of people and provided advices to them on how to reduce worry and stress in this situation through an additional feature in this app.

A three-day long training session for the CHWs was organized by BRAC HCMP from 24th to 26th January 2021 in Kutupalong BRAC office, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. A total of 64 BRAC CHWs and 6 Field facilitators attended the training. BRAC JPGSPH research team members conducted the training sessions on the newly developed and contextualized "Contact tracing and case monitoring app" for easy implementation in both



the communities. In addition, different aspects of COVID- 19 including symptoms and preventive measures were discussed with them, so that they can contribute in raising community awareness.

Implementation of the COVID-19 contact tracing activities started on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 and continued till 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021. A total of 410,121 individuals in 10 Rohingya camps and 6 unions from the host community were screened through this app in 4 months.

### **Community Stakeholder Workshop in Cox's Bazar**

A community stakeholder workshop was organized by the BRAC JPGSPH project team on 24th February 2021 in Kutupalong, Ukhiya engaging the direct beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project. A total of 15 pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls attended the workshop. The research project details and its different activities (contact tracing app and the upcoming MNCH app) were shared and discussed with the community level stakeholders to motivate them to be a part of it and take the services. They shared their views regarding maternal and child health services, sexual and reproductive health, and overall service seeking with us. The discussions gave the research team the needed insight to implement the project successfully in a focused manner.

### **Training of field research assistants and field supervisors for baseline quantitative data collection in Cox's Bazar**

An intensive training was organized from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Cox's Bazar to build capacity of 24 field research assistants (FRAs) and 2 field supervisors for collecting the baseline survey data. The survey questionnaire was developed based on the available literature on the topic and the findings of the qualitative data (mentioned above). Each and every aspect of the questionnaire along with research aims and objectives were shared with the field research assistants. The survey tool was discussed for the first 3 days, followed by 2 day of field



pretesting under the supervision of the research team. Feedback and suggestions from the field research assistants were also sought in order to finalize the questionnaire.



Quantitative data will be collected from a total of 3,148 participants (pregnant women, lactating mothers, mothers of under 5 children and adolescent girls residing in the Rohingya camps and host community) in Cox's Bazar.



### **Community outreach workshop**

Date: 20-24 June 2021 | Participants: 3600

Project implementation partner Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ), BRAC University, has managed to surpass 3600 participants in the community outreach workshops according to Work Plan 1's participant target by June 2021. Four thousand three hundred sixty community members have reached the COVID-19 awareness initiative, including females (136.22%) and males (106%) until July 14, 2021. Among them, a total of 2,122 MVGs have participated in the Community Outreach workshops, including Adolescent (11.79%), Youth (20.59%), Elderly (11.26%), Persons with Disability (6.35%), Pregnant/Lactating Mothers (5.07%), and Single Female-Headed Household groups (0.53%). Additionally, a survey was conducted using the Kobo Toolbox app to evaluate the effectiveness of the COVID-19 Community Outreach Workshops from 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### **Right Here Right Now 2 Workshop**

Owing to the success of The Right Here Right Now (RHRN) 1 project, a coalition of partnerships (Bandhu, BRAC, and Naripokkho) is implementing the RHRN 2 project in Bangladesh from 2021-2025 funded by Rutgers, The Netherlands. This project focuses mainly on an inclusive youth SRHR program. For this program, BRAC James P Grant School

of Public Health conducted a baseline, formative, and needs assessment study from June-August 2021.

On 22 August 2021, from the study team, Subas Biswas, Saifa Raz and Maruf Rahman presented the baseline, formative and needs assessment study findings in a workshop held in the Golden Tulip the Grandmark Dhaka. A total of 26 participants were from RHRN1 and RHRN2 coalition partner organizations in this workshop. They joined both offline and online. Based on these study findings, the workshop participants set output and outcome indicators and five years targets of achievements for this program. The study team facilitated the session

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## **Training on Tools for SoNAR Global: COVID -19 Vulnerability Assessment (VA) in Bangladesh**

Participants: 9 (Research Assistants)

Duration: 2 weeks

Date: 21 March– 01 April 2021

Venue: BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University

Facilitators:

- *Dr. Nahitun Naher*, Assistant director, BRAC JPGSPH.
- *Mir Raihanul Islam*, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.
- *Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune*, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.
- *Dr. Bushra Zarin Islam*, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

### **Description**

A two-week-long training was organised for the field team at BRAC JPGSPH. The training consisted of an overview of the SoNAR-Global project, research methodology, research ethics, and extensive discussion on COVID -19 Vulnerability Assessment tools.

The training also included participatory discussion, role-playing, mock-tests, and pre-testing. End-of-training debriefings and necessary feedback, suggestions, and guidance were provided by the core research team.

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## **Online Coding Session on Antimicrobial Resistance in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Singapore**

**Participants:** 11 | **Duration:** 01 Day | **Date:** 18 August, 2021

**Facilitators:** Dr Helena Legido-Wuigley, National University of Singapore

**Brief:** The purpose of this one-day training was to share and discuss the data collection experience, early findings and coding process among the multi-country partners. A global code book developed from for this multi-country study platform was discussed in detail in the first half of the session, later each country representatives shared example of findings that are aligned with the global code and then the country specific codes. At the end of the coding session a tentative coding plan was decided where each country will list out major codes covered in their country specific findings. Participants also discussed how to synthesise and present the findings. From Bangladesh study team Dr Nahitun Naher, Dr Bushra Zarin Islam, Samiun B.K Tune joined the session. Representative from partner countries including Hong Kong University, University of the Philippines and also National University of Singapore joined the discussion.

**Implemented by:** Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoEHS&UHC), BRAC JPGSPH.

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## **Key Stakeholders online engagement meetings on translating actionable strategies into evidence-informed waterlogging and waste management policies for Dhaka city**

A workshop was held March 1st 2021 on how to embed actionable strategies into waterlogging and waste management policies, linked with access to health and equity in Dhaka city. It consisted of an 1.5 hour interactive meeting held via Zoom. High-level policy professionals from governmental organisations were invited to attend, as well as researchers from the Pathways to Equitable Cities project from BRAC University and their project partners from King's College London and Imperial College London. The session started with a welcome speech from Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH followed by introductory remarks by Prof Zahidul Quayyum, Director, Research BRAC JPGSPH and PI of the Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities Project. The workshop aimed to present four intervention-based solutions around waste management and waterlogging to relevant stakeholders and get feedback on which interventions would take priority, fit into existing policy plans and potential barriers to their implementation. Pathways researchers started off the workshop presenting four potential solutions anchored in the most recent state of



the art data collection and analysis of Dhaka city's waterlogging and waste management issues. These issues had been validated by societal partners during previous workshops, held in September 2020. Workshop participants were subsequently asked to prioritise interventions, elaborate if they'd fit in their work screen and what challenges they experience or anticipate.

The four cross cutting interventions presented at the workshop that could start addressing some of the waste management and waterlogging issues were, namely:

1. Integrated waterlogging mitigating waste to energy pipeline
2. Establishment of an integrated real time control system (RTCS) for monitoring and regulation of waste management and waterlogging activities
3. Establishment of a central monitoring cell/umbrella agency for monitoring and governance of implementing agencies
4. Introduction of social media and mobile phone based campaign to raise public awareness and improve knowledge of proper waste management at household and community level

Pathways researchers aimed to develop the much necessary cross connect between implementable policy scenarios with evidence-based research components through this intervention focused policy workshop. All the workshop participants mentioned that they appreciate and encourage relevant research data

#### Participants

1. Mr. Selim Reza Chief, Executive Officer, Dhaka North City Corporation
2. Air Commodore Md. Badrul Amin, Chief Waste Management Officer, Dhaka South City Corporation
3. Engr. Taqsem A Khan Managing Director, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA)
4. Md Abdur Rashid Khan, Chief Engineer, Department of Local Government
5. Prof. Nazrul Islam, Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies

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### **Training of Young People with Disabilities as Peer Researchers**

**Date:** 1st September-3rd September,2021

**Number of Participants :** 20

**Description :** Youth with disabilities' lived experiences, aspirations, and current engagements in livelihoods in Bangladesh, and how they can share them with local decision-makers.

The training was organised by BRAC JPGSPH and Sightsavers. Conducted by Mrityika Barua (Assistant Professor) and Sayema Akter (Research Fellow) from BRAC JPGSPH along with Ayon Debnath and Syeda Asma Rashida (Country Directors) from Sightsavers. The purpose was to train 20 people with disabilities as peer researchers. The three days in-person training sessions took place in Gulshan's Lake Castle Hotel.

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### **ARC Round B Training**

**Date :** 6th and 7th September,2021

**Number of participants :** 10

**Description :** The purpose of this training was to walk through the guidelines of interviews the researchers will be taking. It was an online training conducted by Ayushi Biyani, Associate (Design Researcher), Aditya Prakash ( Associate Design Researcher) and Babitha George (Partner, Research Lead). The training was organised by Quicksand, India

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### **Training and Digital Care Coordination for Improved Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) by Primary Health Care Teams in Bangladesh: Testing the Proof of Concept**

**Date:** 22 August to 31 August 2021 | **Duration:** 09 days

**Number of Participants:** 10 (1 Research Medical Officer, 1 Medical Technologists, 5 Research Assistants, 3 Data Collectors)

**Facilitators:**

- Dr Rina Rani Paul, Consultant, BRAC JPGSPH
- Md. Mokbul Hossain, Analyst Statistics, BRAC JPGSPH
- Professor Malay Kanti Mridha, Director, CNCDN, BRAC JPGSPH

**Study launched:** 01 September 2021

**Study Sites(s):** Chandipur and Manmathpur Unions of Parbatipur Sub-district, Dinajpur

**Brief:** Although 67% of deaths in Bangladesh are attributed to non-communicable diseases (NCD), NCD management is not yet a priority in the country's primary health care (PHC) system. The government of Bangladesh, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Non-government organizations (NGO) are looking forward to the digitalization of health service delivery. Centre for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN), BRAC JPGSPH has recently developed a digital care coordination platform to support the PHCs in

improving the prevention and management of type-2 diabetes (T2D) cardiovascular diseases and launched the piloting of the application. In this piloting, we are simulating the government PHC system from the community to the Upazilla health complex (UHC) to understand the readiness of this digital platform and ways to improve the functionality of the platform further. The study will also help us to document challenges and opportunities for future scaling-up of the digital platform.

In this study, Community Health Workers (CHW) will register around 2,300 people aged 40+ from the catchment area of 3 selected community clinics of the Chandipur and Manmathpur unions of the Parbatipur sub-district in Dinajpur district. From this population-based assessment, we look forward to identifying and enrolling 800 hypertensive and 180 diabetic patients. CHWs will screen the participants for behavioural risk factors, counsel, and refer them to a community clinic like a health centre for further assessment if needed. In a community clinic like a health centre, a Community Care Provider (CCP) will verify identification and measure height, weight, blood pressure, the blood sugar of the referred patients. They will estimate and communicate 10-years CVD risk using the WHO nonlaboratory-based CVD risk chart and will screen for hypertension and T2D and refer the identified hypertensive and T2D patients to an NCD corner-like set up for confirmation of the diagnosis of hypertension and T2D. In the NCD corner life set up, a medical officer will confirm hypertension/T2D, generate a prescription, perform additional diagnostic tests if needed, estimate and communicate 10-years CVD risk, counsel for treatment adherence, complications, and refer to the specialist care if required. Through this piloting, we will generate data and information to further improve the NCD management in the primary health care system of Bangladesh.



**Implementing by:** Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

**Organized by:** Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

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### **Online Short Course- Responding to the Pandemic: Voice, Equity and Governance**

**Participants:** 25 | **Duration:** 9 days

- 3 weeks' course and 3 days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday in a week).
- 3 to 4 hours of online sessions per day.

**Date:** 14 September - 2 October 2021

#### **Brief:**

The online short course focuses on the “Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC)”. The short course theme has been divided into four interrelated sub-themes: **Overview of Pandemic, Health Systems Preparedness, Social Science Perspectives, Coalition and Partnerships**. The course is a part of the SIDA funded project titled “Making Bangladesh’s Healthcare Systems More Responsive and Participatory”. Experiential learning (simply learning by doing) has been used to deliver the course lessons to participants. The Project is coordinated by Dr Proloy Barua, Assistant Scientist with Advisory support by Dr. Rizwan Khair and team members are Mr. Kazi Hasan Imam, Lead Facilitator (external), Dr Kazi N.H. Haque, Assistant Scientist and Md. Munirul Islam, Senior Project Officer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

#### **Facilitator**

This course has been conducted by notable public health experts from Access to Information (a2i), Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH), BRAC University, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research (IEDCR), NARIPOKKHO, SAJIDA Foundation, SONGJOG, Health and Hope Hospital, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), UK, Temple University, Pennsylvania, USA, University of Dhaka, and WaterAid.

#### **Organised by:**

Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD),  
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH), BRAC University and  
Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

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**Training of the Trainers: The Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication**

**Date:** 15 September, 2021 | **Participants(number):** 11 Participants

**Facilitators:**

- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean & Director, Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up, JPGSPH, BRAC University, Principal Investigator STRIPE Bangladesh
- Prof. Olakunle O. Alonge, Assistant Professor, International Health, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Principal Investigator STRIPE Global
- Dr Anna Kalbarczyk, Assistant Director, Center for Global Health, Research Associate II, Department of International Health, JHSPH, Project Director STRIPE Global
- Dr Humayra Binte Anwar, Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University, Focal Person STRIPE Bangladesh

**Objectives:**

- To showcase the outcomes of the STRIPE project and its relevance to addressing the unmet needs in health programs.
- Identify knowledge domains from the STRIPE course module to develop a short course curriculum targeting implementers in Bangladesh health programs for capacity building.
- Identify and nominate potential faculty and candidates for the upcoming course from relevant organizations such as Government, development partners, and local NGOs.
- To develop a faculty who will teach the selected modules of the upcoming STRIPE short course effectively and lead activities that reinforce learning.

**Description of Training:**

STRIPE (The Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication) : This workshop aims to provide participants with a brief overview of the identified global health knowledge domains and how some of the identified themes of the project can be used to address the remaining challenges in the health sector. The workshop will also attempt to build the capacity of relevant national health institutions through the implementation science module to develop a dedicated workforce to further strengthen the health system in Bangladesh.

**Organised by:** BRAC JPGSPH and John Hopkins University