

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN EQUITY AND HEALTH (CUEH)

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Established in 2013, with the focus on health equity challenges of the urban poor, particularly on urban health governance; the Centre works in inter-sectoral research, training, policy and resultsbased action. The Centre motivates evidence-based dialogue and decision-making, and supports partnerships and networking among government policymakers, private and public service providers, researchers and development partners.

The key areas of the Centre's work include training and capacity development to enhance skills and competencies for better urban health governance, inter-sectoral action, needs and impact assessments as well as programme design, implementation and evaluation. Research at the Centre focuses on urban health governance, community engagement and accountability, and facility mapping and innovations in service delivery models for the urban poor. With broad participation of relevant sectors (health, housing, transport, etc.) and stakeholders (development partners, local government, NGOs, etc.), the Centre applies an evidence-based approach to building consensus, aligning resources and coordinating action towards better governance practices.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS ONGOING IN 2022

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### - PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE HEALTHY CITIES

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Director, Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor, Co-Director, Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Sabrina Mustabin Jaigirdar, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: September 2018 - February 2024

#### Objective:

- To develop actionable policy scenarios bearing in mind the health impact of different sectors on health outcomes and validate them with stakeholders;
- To engage and build the capacity of these stakeholders to facilitate policy implementation;
- To develop an integrated analytical framework and develop locally-parameterized models for Dhaka city that will guide forming and integrating policy scenarios across sectors and quantify their impacts on health outcomes.

Methodology: Quantitative and Qualitative methods, spatial analysis and modelling with simulation

Donor: Wellcome Trust, UK

Partners: Ames Research Center; Anzhen Hospital China; Arizona State University; Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE); McGill University, Canada; Imperial College London, UK; Public Health England; Simon Fraser University Canada; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; The University of Chicago; Tsinghua University, China; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of British Columbia; University of Ghana

- **ARISE HUB: ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR EQUITY**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nadia Farnaz, Research Fellow; Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator

Timeline: February 2019 – February 2024

**Objective:**

- The project aims to catalyse change in approaches to enhancing accountability and improving the health and wellbeing of poor, marginalised people living in informal urban settlements.

- The ARISE Hub is addressing the intractable development challenge of ill-health, inequity and insecurity in urban informal settlements in Low- and Middle-Income Countries in the context of complex and often dysfunctional governance arrangements. This Hub works with the most marginalized people living in urban informal settlements and to support them in identifying their priorities, making their conditions visible to key service providers related to health and wellbeing (both governmental and non-governmental). This research applies community-based participatory approaches to co-produce knowledge and evidence in partnership with the community and key stakeholders.

**Methodology:** Mixed method (participatory action research)

**Donors:** GCRF (Global Challenges Research Fund); UK Research and Innovation

**Partners:** Institution Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK; Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK; Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK Slum and Shack Dwellers' International (SDI); The George Institute for Global Health, India; BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University; College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), Sierra Leone; Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University, Sierra Leone; Liverpool VCT health (LVCT), Kenya; African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya

- **COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE URBAN HEALTH SYSTEMS (CHORUS)**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Director, Research and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Baby Naznin, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: May 2020 - April 2026

**Objective:** To build a resilient and responsive urban health system to the existing challenges e.g. double burden of Communicable & Non-communicable Diseases, dominance of NGO sector, low health service coverage for marginalized urban people, through capacity building and research uptakes including sectors beyond health and enabling linkages between multiple government, NGO and private providers whilst ensuring accountability to urban residents, particularly the poor.

**Methodology:** Desk Review, Quantitative and Qualitative methods, participatory research, RCT and Retrospective Study

**Donor:** Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) [Former DFID], UK

**Partners:** Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, University of Leeds; University of York; ARK Foundation, Bangladesh; HERD International, Nepal; University of Nigeria; University of Ghana

- **Cost Analysis of BIED's Play Lab Model intervention for children in Government Primary Schools of Bangladesh**

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Director Research and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Timeline: October 2021-June 2022

Objective: To conduct cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis of BIED's play lab intervention for the children aged 4-5 years in the Government Primary Schools.

Donor: BRAC Institute of Education (BIED), BRAC University

- **A novel approach of engaging with poor urban communities to talk about health: a scoping study to understand the perceptions of the key stakeholders in Bangladesh**

PI: Dr Briony Thomas, University of Leeds

Co-PI: Dr Mahua Das

Co-Investigator: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Director Research and Co-Director, Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Timeline: January 2022- November 2022

Objective:

- To provide evidence of the potential and priorities for STEAM (science-technology-engineering-arts-maths) education initiatives to engage young people in health promotion in Dhaka's poor urban communities.
- To engage key stakeholders in Bangladesh in the co-design of an intervention, provide evidence of priorities, and foster mutual understanding of potential challenges and constraints.

Donor: The University of Leeds, Crucible Programme

Partner: ARK Foundation, Dhaka