



# Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities (Pathways)

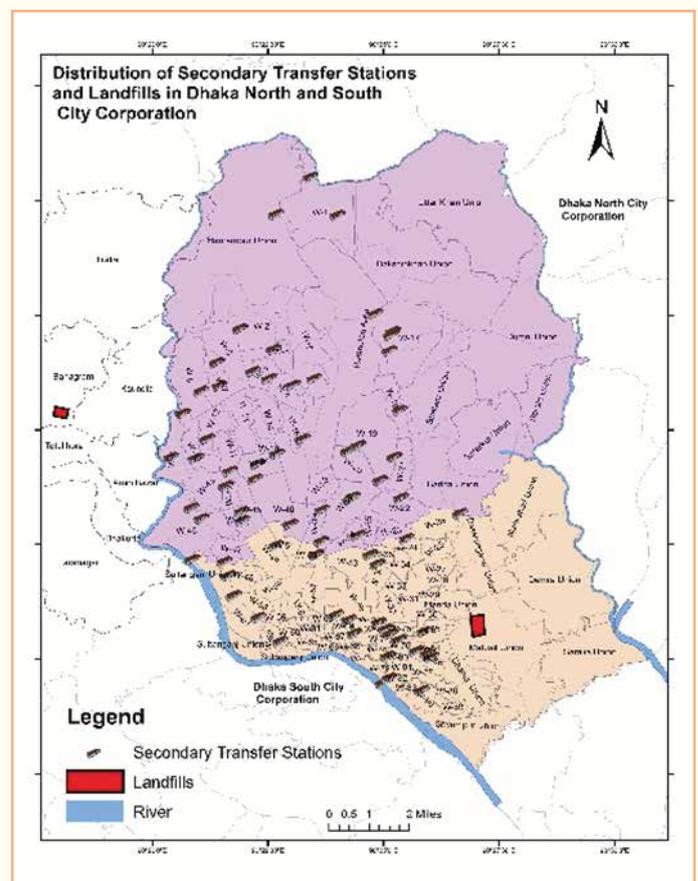
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**TIMELINE:** September 2018 – April 2022

**PARTNERS:**

- Ames Research Centre;
- Anzhen Hospital China;
- Arizona State University;
- Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE);
- McGill University;
- Imperial College London;
- Public Health England;
- Simon Fraser University;
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health;
- University of Chicago;
- Tsinghua University China;
- University of Massachusetts;
- University of British Columbia;
- University of Ghana;
- Kings College London
- Universities Space Research Association (USRA)

**DONOR:** Wellcome Trust



The “[Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities](#)” (Pathways) project (2018-2023) funded by the Wellcome Trust, through the “Our Planet, Our Health” scheme is being conducted across 6 cities (London, Vancouver, Dhaka, Beijing, Accra, Tamale) in 5 countries, with BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University

leading research work conducted in Dhaka. This project aims at improving the health of the urban population health, enhance health equity and ensure environmental sustainability, through engaging policymakers and other civil society stakeholders to co-produce knowledge on how to develop an equitable health city. This project also

applies an innovative approach to multilateral capacity building through developing state-of-the-art research methodologies via the many multi-country multi-institution collaborations within Pathways.



The Dhaka pathways team, in collaboration with partners Imperial College and King's College, London has conducted 4 policy engagement events so far, focused on pertinent urban issues of waste management, waterlogging, and housing and neighbourhood. These engagements created an opportunity to build relationships between policy professionals, government authorities, researchers, and practitioners around key topics of Pathways' work in Dhaka. High-level stakeholders from Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka WASA, RAJUK, LGED, DPHE and other leading Govt and non-Govt academic and research organisations participated in those workshops and shared their insights and recommendations. These interactive meetings were key to connecting our research with existing ground-level practices to pave a way towards realistic, evidence-based policy modelling later in the pathways project, which will have a national-level impact to promote health equity for the urban population.



The research supporting our innovative coproduction work is also novel and has not previously been attempted in the context of Dhaka. We have conducted a study to map, for the first time, consumption-based inequality and poverty across Dhaka city at a small area (ward level). In our waste management research, we have also spatially mapped the secondary transfer station (STSs) and interlinked them with ward-wise waste generation levels and socio-economic indicators, and neighbourhood characteristics of the city. We have also presented our research findings on waste management at the 16th World Congress of Public Health, in October 2020. Two of



our conference abstracts have been published there. One of which is about to health risk of people living near the landfills and transfer stations titled "[Exploring the health risk of people living near the Secondary Transfer Stations and Landfills in Dhaka](#)" and another one is on policies and opportunities of solid waste management titled "[Rethinking Policies and Possibilities of Sustainable Solid Waste Management System of Dhaka City](#)". Besides, we have also published a conference abstract on occupational health hazards of waste handlers titled "[Occupational Health and Safety Hazards: An Explorative Study of Dhaka city Waste Handlers](#)" at the [6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Public Health \(ICOPH 2020\)](#) in November 2020. Furthermore, the research findings on Dhaka's waste management, policy governance, inequality and poverty estimate for small areas, and ambient lighting have also been presented at the [International Conference on Urban Health \(ICUH\), 2021](#) in four sessions. Our researchers have given oral presentations at several sessions of this conference held in July 2021. These presentations were on i) Governance Challenges in the Existing Solid Waste Management Sector in Dhaka, Bangladesh. ii) Household Waste Generation to Disposal in Secondary Transfer Stations in Dhaka City: Barriers and Facilitators Influencing Environmental Sustainability. iii) Predicting and mapping poverty in small areas of Dhaka City: a mixed effect model approach using consumption data. iv) Poor lighting and health in Dhaka. From the waste management research, an article has recently been published in the journal of Buildings and Cities on landfill waste practice and pollution titled "[Dhaka landfill waste practices: addressing urban pollution and health hazards](#)". The other paper titled "[Loops and Building Blocks: a Knowledge co-Production Framework for Equitable Urban Health](#)" was also published in March 2021.

The Pathways project is uniquely impacting national urban health equity through our interlinkages with policymakers and civil society stakeholder's influence on policy prescriptions and practices.