

TO BE THE LEADING GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD'S CRITICAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AFFECTING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University was founded in 2004 in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address the unmet public health challenges particular to Asia, Africa and South America. Since inception:

- The School has over **293 Multidisciplinary Faculty and Staff**,
- The MPH programme has had **562 Graduates** from **34 Countries**,
- It has undertaken more than **205 Research Projects** including, **45 COVID-19 related Rapid Quantitative and Qualitative Research Assessments**,
- Over **119 Global and National Partnerships and Networks**,
- More than **715 Peer-Reviewed Publications** (journal articles, International book chapters, etc.),
- **6200 Trained Health and Development Professionals** to date,
- Over **220 Active Civil Society and Engagements with Key Stakeholders** to influence and impact on programmes and policies.

VISION:

To be the leading global public health institute for the world's critical health challenges affecting disadvantaged communities.

MISSION:

To create innovative public health leaders and solutions through cutting edge, experiential Education, Training, Research and Advocacy.

The School has four core pillars: (1) EDUCATION (2) TRAINING (3) RESEARCH and (4) ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme at BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University started its journey in 2005. Since inception the School has **562 Graduates** from **34 countries** and over **293 multidisciplinary faculty and staff**. It is a one-year full time programme that offers transformative public health learning to develop next-generation public health leaders for 21st century public health challenges. The locus of the MPH programme is its experiential community immersive teaching through rigorous urban and rural fieldwork. Facilitating this real-world contextual learning are the BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University's reputed global and national faculty grounded in critical public health research, practice, programme and practitioners from international institutions including Harvard University, USA; Stanford, USA; McGill University, Canada; Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK; University of New South Wales, Australia; Makerere University and nationally reputed institutions: BRAC, icddr,b and others.

In 2007, the School was featured as one of the [top 6 Public Health Schools in the region by WHO](#), and in 2019 featured in [Johns Hopkins University's Global Health Now as a top School in the region](#). The current 17th MPH cohort (2021-2022) has a total of 43 students with 19 international and 24 national students. Since COVID-19 began in Bangladesh the programme is online.

To know more about the BRAC JPGSPH MPH programme please take a look at the [MPH 2021 Prospectus](#).

RESEARCH

BRAC JPGSPH's Five Centres of Excellence and a Humanitarian Research Hub (2018) aim to investigate pressing and emerging developing country health needs to identify evidence-based solutions and to inform programmes and policies. Since inception, above **205 research projects**, **45 COVID-19 related Rapid Quantitative and Qualitative Research Assessments** and over **715 Peer-Reviewed Publications** (including Journal Articles, International book chapters etc.) has been undertaken by the Five Centres of Excellence and the Humanitarian Research Hub:

1. Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (established in 2008)
2. Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (established in 2012)

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3. Urban Equity and Health (established in 2013)
4. Science of Implementation & Scale-up (established in 2016)
5. Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition (established in 2017)

A team of faculty and researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and professions comprising of epidemiologists, medical anthropologists, anthropologists, biostatisticians, development economists, health economists, statisticians, health policy and health system experts, implementation researchers, nutritionists, doctors and social scientists, are part of the dedicated Centres of Excellence and the Humanitarian Research Hub with a proven track record and in-depth insights.

The research at BRAC JPGSPH focuses on transforming evidence into action for change by combining grounded research and analysis to inform the Government, Key Stakeholders (i.e., non-governmental organisations, international agencies), Civil Society and Donors. Through the School's **119 Extensive Global and National Partnerships and Networks**, evidence is developed to support programmes and policies, nationally and globally.

BRAC JPGSPH's projects are related to health encompasses urban and rural health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, health workforce, health equity and health financing, surveillance, programme evaluation, and implementation science. Areas of research related to gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) areas include sexuality, violence against women and children, vulnerable populations. Apart from the abovementioned, the research areas also include financial inclusion, poverty alleviation, education, skills development, climate change, migration, and human rights. Under the **45 rapid quantitative and qualitative research assessments**, populations include: urban poor, rural populations, informal sector workers internal migrants, garments workers, young mothers, frontline workers, doctors, nurses, transgender and refugees.

To know more about the School's activities during the COVID-19 pandemic please visit the official site: <https://covid-bracjpgsph.org/>.

TRAINING

Established in 2007, the Centre for Professional Skills Development in Public Health (CPSD) provides practical skill-based training for relevant public health priorities and needs, and encourages solution-oriented thinking to address practical 'real world' challenges. The Centre's workshops are codesigned critical competencies for professional training to ensure relevant capabilities are developed, in addition to ensuring, interactive teaching and learning which includes, innovative tools for in-person, field-based and online learning and participant centred learning to promote critical thinking. Immersive learning by visits to field sites, such as rural urban communities, health facilities (public, NGO, private), organisations (public, NGO, private) are also a part of these workshops.

CPSD has involved more than **320 diverse Global Facilitators** which include, public health practitioners, policy makers and multi-sectoral actors (i.e., Government, NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector) comprising medical professionals, anthropologists, health economists, ethnographers, statisticians, development practitioners, programme managers, and academics from well-established international institutions and national institutions. The School has conducted over **190 Skill Building Seminars and Workshops** and trained over **6200 Health and Development Professionals** and training on COVID-19 to over **628 students of Developing Midwifery Programme (DMP)** to Date.

More on CPSD in the official website: <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/index.php/2015-09-08-04-34-47>.

ADVOCACY

BRAC JPGSPH believes in advocating to impact programme design and policies, closely engaging with government, key stakeholders (i.e., non-government organisations, international agencies), civil society and donors to push agendas of national and global importance. All research evidence undertaken by the School have policy and advocacy as part of their key mandate.

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The aim of the five Centres of Excellence and the Humanitarian Research Hub is to continually engage in translating research evidence to inform programme and policy interventions. To date the School has over **220 active civil society and engagements with key stakeholders** to influence and impact on programmes and policies. Selected notable achievements from 2019 includes the Global Conference on Implementation Science and Scale-Up with **over 250 participants from 30 countries**, Implementation Research focusing on Health System strengthening in UNICEF supported areas in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh.

Since inception the School serves as the secretariat for Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), a multi-stakeholder civil society advocacy and monitoring network is dedicated in improving the health system in Bangladesh through a critical review of policies and programmes and recommendation of appropriate actions for change. The Dean, the Founding Dean and the Director of Centre for Health Systems research at the School are working group members.

During this public health emergency of COVID-19, the School is actively engaging in sharing evidence with mainstream media, government advisors, citizens' platform-Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) and many other civil society bodies, on current needs of disadvantaged populations by organising more than **41 Webinars related to COVID-19, 17 Round-table discussions, Seminars, Conferences, Dialogues, Meetings** with diverse partners and stakeholders and publishing above **120 News Articles and 21 Blogs**. The School also actively aggregates and shares of useful resource materials, locally and globally to a wider audience, including BRAC university, health organisations, key stakeholders, partners, and networks. The school also publishes quarterly [E-Newsletter](#) as part of its advocacy initiative.

Leadership: Professor Sabina F Rashid is Dean of the School since 2013. Professor Malabika Sarker is the Associate Dean, with a Senior Management team of 14 which includes 9 Professors, 1 Associate Professors, an Associate Scientist, and the Head of Developing Midwives Project and her senior team.