



Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Right Here Right Now (RHRN)

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR
Co-PI and Focal Person: Kuhel Islam, Senior Coordinator

Objective: To harness the collective and catalytic strengths of inclusive and diverse partnerships to drive multi-level advocacy initiatives in a policy environment that is responsive to young people's realistic needs. RHRN Bangladesh performs Multi-level advocacy for: Comprehensive Reproductive Health and Sexuality Education for youth and adolescents, increased social tolerance towards gender expressions and youth-friendly SRHR services.

Grant Amount: USD 42,554

Partners: BRAC Education Programme, BRAC; RHSTEP, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu), Naripokkho, SERAC-Bangladesh, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Oboyob, BLAST, United for Body Rights (UBR) Alliance, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Dance4Life, Arrow / HiVOS

Donor: RUTGERS | **Timeline:** July 2017- October 2020



Promoting Rights Through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTIE)

PI & Co-PI: Lead by Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR; Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator

Objective: 1. To address discriminatory laws, policies and practices related to marriage and sexual violence in the context of Bangladesh and international human rights standards.
2. To create platforms for university students and young professionals in the project area to express their views and experiences on their freedom to express, choose, and consent to matters related to their own lives, and strengthen their knowledge and understanding and rights, and to enhance the capacity of service providers on SRHR.

Grant Amount: USD 311,515

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)
Donor: Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)
Timeline: January 2019 – September 2020

HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: An Evaluation of BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) Model in Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Technical Advisor: AKM Mazharul Islam, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH; Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR
Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: This study aims to understand what makes the HPL model unique in the Rohingya refugee camp setting. We will explore and document the life history and experiences of Rohingya families, learn indigenous knowledge, attitudes and practices of the community in terms of ECD and play-based learning, evaluate HPL's impact on learning, healing and coping of children, children's acceptance of HPL and play based learning, how Rohingya cultural aspects and practices are being preserved through the model and what impact it has on social cohesiveness.

Grant Amount: USD 75,000

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

Timeline: February 2019 – December 2023



HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: A Story of the Evolution of BRAC Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) in Rohingya Camps of Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate

Objective: To undertake a process documentation study outlining the story of BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED) and BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP) run Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) for children aged 0-6 years in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar. **Grant Amount:** USD 90,742

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)

Timeline: The PD began in Feb 2019 and will continue till 2023. The first phase of the process documentation exercise is complete.

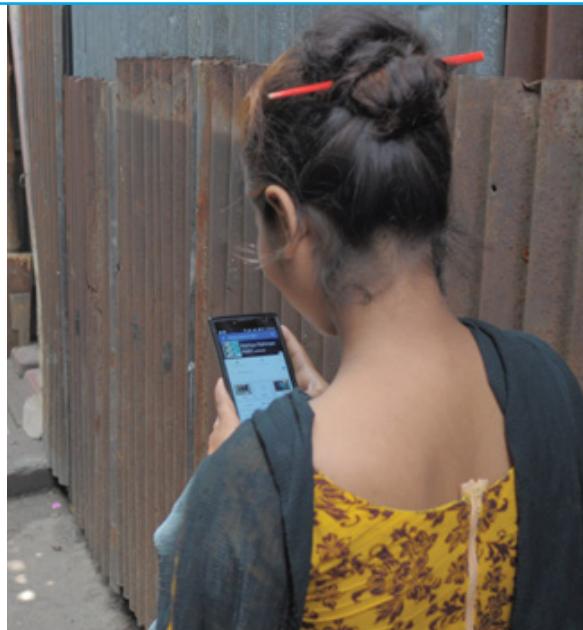
BKASH – Digital cash transfers and women's social and economic empowerment (Brac school research in collaboration with harvard university – in three countries)

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR
Coordinator: Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator (Co-Investigator)

Objective: The project encompasses two major research activities: 1) a scoping review of the literature; and 2) case studies for two countries representing different journeys on the path toward penetration of digital financial services. Throughout both activities, the project aims to explicitly focus on the critical role played by gender in the relationship between digital financial services and health, with a focus on how women may differently experience both the benefits and risks of new innovations **Grant Amount:** USD 100,000

Partner and Donor: Gates Foundation, USA

Timeline: January 2020 – June 2020



Mobilizing for a Research Revolution to Ensure LGBTIQ Inclusion in Asia: A High-impact, Transformative International Partnership (MFARR-Asia)

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR; Peter Newman (University of Toronto) **Coordinators:** Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR and Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant **Focal:** Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant

Objective: To generate a shared understanding of characteristics and priorities of LGBTIQ inclusion in six sectors: education, employment, family, violence/security, health and political participation. To measure and monitor LGBTIQ inclusion in four countries (India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Hong Kong) over time. To identify model programs and initiatives, and good practices to support LGBTIQ inclusion. To increase access to and use of knowledge by community-based organization (CBO) and intergovernmental organization (IGO) partners through innovative knowledge mobilization, including participatory video.

Grant Amount: USD 300,000

Partners: Oboyob – Diversity Circle, Bandhu Social Welfare Society
Donor: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada **Timeline:** November 2019 – March 2024



A study of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh

PI: Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor, and Co-Director, CUEH
Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR

Coordinator: Irin Akhter, Deputy project Coordinator

Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand SRHR needs, knowledge about SRHR, SRH sufferings, perception around sex and sexuality and barriers in accessing SRH services for PWDs in Bangladesh through primary research. Secondary review of existing interventions and/or services relevant to SRHR of PWDs, identify gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services and recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services. Review existing laws and policies relevant to SRHR and disability in Bangladesh and explore barriers to the implementation of laws and policies and recommend strategies for improvement.

Grant Amount: USD 556,728.55

Partners: Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is providing technical assistance

Donor: The Royal Kingdom of Netherlands

Timeline: November 2018 to May 2020



Male youth and their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh: a mixed-methods nationwide study

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

Coordinated by: Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator

Qualitative Lead: Subas Chandra Biswas, Senior Research Fellow

Implemented Under: The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: This study aims to explore the SRH needs of male youth (aged 15-24) in Bangladesh by exploring existing SRH interventions; identifying the gaps and challenges to improve SRH interventions and/or services; and identifying the barriers of implementation and recommendations for policy advocacy. **Grant Amount:** USD 521,938

Donor: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Timeline: December 2018-December 2020



Countering Backlash and Reclaiming Gender Justice

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR

Coordinator: Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; Aisha Siddika, Sr. Researcher

Objective: Understanding and countering the backlash against gender equality. Addressing the erosion of gender justice agendas within the development. Identifying new opportunities for feminist action and impact, within a context of shrinking civic space for women's movements and rights defenders. **Grant Amount:** USD 176,558

Partners: IDS - Sussex University, BIGD, Centre for Health and Social Justice - CHSJ (India), Kenya (University of Nairobi and Advocates for Social Change - Kenya, ADSOCK), Uganda (Centre for Basic Research, CBR, and the Refugee Law Project, RLP/Makerere University), Lebanon (Arab Institute for Women, AiW/Lebanese American University, LAU), Egypt (American University in Cairo), Palestine (Birzeit University) and Brazil (University of Bahia).

Donor: SIDA | **Timeline:** 2019 -2024

South Asian Regional SRHR Platform

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR

Objective: The proposed South Asian Regional Platform on Gender and SRHR in Bangladesh and four other countries (India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), will support SRH organizations, practitioners, government champions, youth leaders, researchers and other key stakeholders who are committed to progressive social and political changes in Gender and SRHR issues in order to promote rights based approach in research, and to programming and policies. Through effective capacity building and ongoing dialogues and network meetings with a select group of targeted stakeholders from countries in the region, it will develop a comprehensive long term agenda, which prioritizes regional perspectives and needs on Gender and SRHR.

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Timeline: Mar 2020- Feb 2020



Exploring the outcomes, successes and challenges of the soft skill training component of BRAC Skills Development Program (SDP)

PI: Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator

Coordinator: Mohammad Riaz Hossain, Sr. Field Coordinator

Objective: To understand perceptions of beneficiaries and peer leaders regarding the soft skill training program, exploring the effect of soft skills training program on beneficiaries, and, exploring the successes and challenges of the soft skill training program to generate relevant recommendations for program strengthening and scale up.

Grant Amount: USD 35,354

Donor: BRAC SDP Program | **Timeline:** January 2020- July 2020



Randomized controlled trial of biometrically enabled mHealth system of BRAC MNCH Community Health Program

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

Objective: This study will be conducted in 36 selected districts of Bangladesh where BRAC mHealth program is being implemented at present. A randomized control trial comparing two groups of beneficiaries, one accessing only mHealth services and another with biometrically enabled mHealth services will be compared based on their maternal and child health outcomes and cost effectiveness of the intervention across three different time-points (February 2020, June 2020 and October 2020). Qualitative interviews from service providers will be used as a means to better comprehend the findings and explore the overall efficiency in resource implications (the costs), the management of the intervention and improved delivery of the services. It is expected that the use of this biometrically enabled mHealth intervention will result in improved maternal and child health outcomes along with an efficient health care management system for BRAC HNPP's maternal and child health care programme.

Donor: Simprints | **Timeline:** Nov 2019- Dec 2020





Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

The Ethics of Health Policy Experiments: A Global Framework for Design and Oversight

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up CoE-SISU

Co-PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist

Focal: Mrittika Barua, Sr Research Fellow

Objective: The overall objective is to test and refine “deliberative interviews,” a cognitive qualitative interview technique based on deliberation. The study aims to assess such an approach to determine its applicability in designing a framework that examines ethical aspects of health policy experiments. In particular, the research team examines: If deliberative interviews are socially and culturally acceptable in the four study countries. If a higher knowledge level on health issues can be reached by using the deliberative interview style, which takes into account major, widely-known aspects of a particular health theme and has both interviewer and interviewee engage actively in the interview.

Partner: University of Heidelberg, Germany; TH Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts; School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Tanzania.

Donor: Wellcome Trust, UK; Heidelberg University

Timeline: Oct 2017 - Dec 2020

Grant Amount: USD 230, 620



Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication (STRIPE)

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU **Co-PI:** Dr Yameen Mazumder, Project Implementation Specialist

Focal: Humayra Binte Anwar, Research Associate

Objective: To map, package and disseminate knowledge assets under the GPEI as academic and training programs for various global health audiences to facilitate effective implementation of life-saving programs globally, and the legacy of the GPEI in advancing global health beyond polio eradication.

Grant Amount: Year 2- \$73,260; \$ 41,131.00

Partner: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Donor: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Timeline: April 2018 - December 2022

A Media Experiment to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU **Co-PI:** Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist
Focal Person: Mushfiqur Rahman, Research Associate

Objective: The aim of this study is to assess the relative importance of different motives for which husbands might use violence against their wives as well as the reasons for which low-income husbands use more violence than high-income husbands in Bangladesh. In addition, the study tests different interventions to reduce intimate partner violence.

Research Method: Quantitative (randomized control trial)

Partner: Association of Development for Economic and Social Help (ADESH)

Donor: South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) with World Bank; and Canadian Grand Challenges

Timeline: June 2019 - May 2021 | **Grant Amount:** \$ 99,653.00



Old Age Allowance

PI: Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist

Co-PI: Viola Asri, Kumar Biswas, Sebastian Fehrler, Urs Fischbacher, Katharina Michaelowa **Focal:** Viola Asri, Kumar Biswas

Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: The main objective is to make the selection of beneficiaries more pro-poor by enabling the local government representatives to apply the eligibility criteria prescribed by the national government and make the selection based on the provided data on the target group. The impact evaluation will be based on comparing eligibility of the beneficiaries in control and treatment group using one commonly used poverty measure namely the PPI score and one eligibility measure reflecting the rules as formulated in the government guidelines

Partner: Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare; ARCED Foundation

Donor: University of Zurich, Switzerland; Thurgau Economic Research Institute, University of Konstanz, Germany

Timeline: February 2019 - December 2020

Grant Amount: USD 10,195

Millions Cool Roofs Challenge

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU **Co-PI:** Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist

Coordinator: Md. Shihab Ad Din, Senior Research Assistant

Focal: Shams Shabab Haider, Research Associate

Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: The objective of this study is to improve access to sustainable cooling through the rapid scaling of cool roofs in countries with large numbers of people facing heat stress risks.

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Partner: Department of Architecture, BRAC University

Donor: The Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France Nesta Enterprise Ltd

Timeline: July 2019-December 2020



Climate Change, Migrations and Health Systems Resilience in Haiti and Bangladesh (ClimHB)

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU

Focal: Shams Shabab Haider, Research Associate

Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Science of Implementation and Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Objective: The Climate Change, Migration and Health Systems Resilience (ClimHB) project is an applied and interdisciplinary research project in Social Science and Public Health, which aims to analyse the capacities and vulnerabilities of health systems in Haiti and Bangladesh, through the lens of climate change-induced migration flows. Funded by the National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the presidential call "Make Our Planet Great Again" (MOPGA), this project is part of an international research project in the social sciences and public health, focusing on public policies and health systems.

Grant Amount: USD 158,926.28

Partner: CEPED - IRD

Donor: ANR – French National Research Agency Institut De Recherche Pour LE Developpement

Timeline: January 2019-December 2021





Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE HS&UHC)

Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance for Health System Strengthening and Advancing UHC Agenda in Bangladesh: The Role of Frontline Healthcare Service Providers in Improving Performance

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC

Co-PI: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow

Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow

Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC)

Objective: To tackle the situation, a study with the above title has been proposed which seeks to explore practices that are related to the delivery of responsive, equitable and quality services by the health care providers and managers at the PHC levels. This is expected to align motivation of the frontline health workers with the macro level expectations from the health services delivery network, and strengthen the PHC system for better performance.

Partners: School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), University of London; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom

Donor: UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Timeline: August 2017 - Ongoing | **Grant Amount:** USD 207,378



A Global Social Sciences Network for Infectious Threats and Antimicrobial Resistance (SoNAR Global)

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR
Coordinator: Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow

Objective: 1. Develop an open-access platform to support the SoNAR-Global activities and to share them broadly. 2. Adapt, test, and evaluate vulnerability assessment tools on the ground and engagement models to facilitate collaboration across multiple stakeholders. 3. Create, pilot and evaluate curricula for training social scientists in preparedness and response to infectious threats and through curricular development and piloting social science knowledge of infectious threats among non-social sciences actors.

Partners: AIGHD, NIVEL, MUW, Mahidol, PHC, BRAC JPGSPH, UCL, MU, CRCF

Donor: European Commission

Timeline: 2019 - Ongoing Jan 2019 - Dec 2021

Grant Amount: Total Consortium Budget: USD 322,6625.67

JPG Budget: USD 290,682



Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

Accountability and responsiveness in informal settlements for equity

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR

Co-PI: Bachera Akter, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

Coordinator: Bachera Akter, Assistant Director, CGSRHR

Objective: The objective is to catalyze change in approaches to enhancing accountability and improving the health and wellbeing of poor, marginalized people living in informal urban settlements.

Grant Amount: USD 1,350,793

Partners:

1. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh
2. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK
3. Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
4. Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, UK
5. The University of York, UK
6. George Institute for Global Health, India
7. Slum/Shack Dwellers' International (SDI), India
8. African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya
9. Liverpool VCT Health (LVCT), Kenya
10. Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Njala University
11. Sierra Leone: College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), Sierra Leone

Donor: UK Research and Innovation's Global Challenges Research

Timeline: December 2018 - February 2024



Forced Displacement and Education: Building the Evidence for What Works

PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Research and Co-Director, CUEH **Co-PI:** Samir Ranjan Nath, Programme Head of BIED

Coordinator: Rasel Babu, Research Fellow, BIED

Focal: Saira Parvin, Sr. Research Fellow

Objective: The study will work towards advancing its understanding on education for the forcibly displaced as part of a broader education sector agenda of improving learning outcomes for populations living in poverty, exclusion, or distress. Additionally, the study aims to improve its effectiveness regarding its role and contributions to facilitating transition and uptake from humanitarian education responses to long-term development agendas that can support sustainable access to quality education for the forcibly displaced and the communities that host them.

Partners: AIR Donor: The World Bank Group

Timeline: October 2019 – April 2021

Grant Amount: USD 48,000



Pathways to Equitable Healthy Cities

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

Co-PI: Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH
Technical Advisor: Professor, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean

Coordinator: Marzuka Ahmad Radia, Research Coordinator

Implemented Under: Centre of Excellence for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)

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

Grant Amount: USD 490,295

Partners: Imperial College London

Donor: Wellcome Trust, UK

Timeline: 1 September 2018 to 30 April 2022



Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Understanding the patterns and determinants of health in South Asians People-South Asia Biobank

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean and Director, CoE-SISU

Co-PI: Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director, CNCDN

Coordinator: Mehedi Hasan, Research Fellow

Implemented Under: Centre for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN)

Objective: Strengthen NCD surveillance systems in Bangladesh by establishing 30 surveillance sites across the country. And complete structured assessments on a representative sample of up to 30,000 Bangladeshi men and women aged 18+ years, living at the 30 surveillance sites using standardized approaches. Also to provide nationally representative data on the burden of T2D, CVD and their risk factors, and on the quality of care for these major NCDs to quantify needs, in Bangladeshi populations.

Grant Amount: USD 744,332

Partners: Imperial College London, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), Bangladesh University of Health Science (BUHS), BRAC

Donors: National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)

Timeline: May 2018 - April 2021

