



Monthly

## UHC@News letter

**HEALTH ECONOMICS UNIT**  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
[www.heu.gov.bd](http://www.heu.gov.bd)/[www.sskcell.gov.bd](http://www.sskcell.gov.bd)



**May, 2016**

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### **Our Acquiescence**

Like many other countries in the world, Bangladesh has been a great proponent of the global movement for attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The health population and nutrition sector of the country with its glorious recent achievements, is fully prepared to take forward the agenda of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the target which is crucial for attaining not only the health SDG but all other SDGs.

As achieving UHC is a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral task requiring efforts from multiple stakeholders, Health Economics Unit (HEU) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been coordinating and leading the activities towards the goal as a focal office.

This e-Newsletter is a humble effort to present and share the snapshots of some of the activities taken place in the recent past.



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**Regional Consultation on Health, SDGs and Role of Universal Health Coverage: next step in South-East Asia**

A regional consultation on *Health, SDGs and Role of Universal Health Coverage; next steps in South-East Asia* was held in New Delhi, India on 29-30 March 2016. Mr. Ashadul Islam, DG-HEU led a team comprising Members from MOHFW, WHO, JPG School of Public Health, and Save the Children. The consultation discussed and debated extensively the current challenges, immediate next steps and the way forward for the regional countries.

DG-HEU presented two papers – the analysis of the impoverishing effects of OOP in the poor quintiles, and the monitoring framework for UHC in Bangladesh. HEU also participated in the poster presentation with two posters on the issue. Other Members of the Delegation took part in the presentation, panel discussions, and group work. The consultation identified the common challenges for UHC in the region and suggested common and country specific actions for progressive realization of UHC.



**Meeting on the work plan for BNHA- V and use of Health Accounts Production Tool (HAPT/AT)**

The extended meeting of Bangladesh National Health Accounts (BNHA) cell on *the work plan for BNHA- V and use of Health Accounts Production Tool (HAPT/AT)* on April 06, 2016 at the Conference Room of HEU. Mr. Ashadul Islam, DG of HEU presided over the meeting. Representatives from different member organizations of BNHA cell and Members from the Development Partners attended at the meeting. Mr. Ahmed Mustafa, focal point of BNHA cell presented the work plan for 2016. He mentioned that the work for BNHA-V is already initiated and surveys to different institutions for potential data would be started soon. Government data would be mapped to SHA 2011 compatible existing BNHA framework for both national (including PER) and international reporting. Collection and collation of information on private health expenditure from different types of institution and submit in SHA 2011 compatible format would be outsourced. Local capacity development for conducting PER/NHA using HAPT/HAAT would be done. The findings of BNHA-V would be disseminated at Dhaka and six divisions. There are two policy brief on the preliminary estimates of BNHA would also be prepared.

Experts from HFG and USAID presented the outlines of the HAPT and its potential benefits. Members of the meeting observed that more discussions were required on issues like whether



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the Tool will be compatible with our present data collection format and the nature of data, and whether our team could pick up Tool quickly to use it for BNHA-V as it is planned to be completed by 2016. HFG/USAID representatives agreed to organize short training on the Tool and after that the Cell would decide at what point it could be utilized. The meeting was attended by the BNHA Cell Members who represent different relevant organizations like Institute of Health Economics, DU; Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics; ICDDR,B; Data International; and Partners like WHO & USAID/HFG.

**Contract signing with Data International for conducting surveys for BNHA-V**

*A signing of contract agreement between HEU and Data International (DI), Ltd for conducting surveys to collect information on private health expenditure was taken place on 07 April, 2016 at HEU.*



Mr. Ashadul Islam DG HEU and Mr. Najmul Hossain MD, DI signed the contract on behalf of the organizations. According to the contract, DI under the guidance of the BNHA Cell will develop the data collection instruments, collect and collate data on private health expenditure from different types of institutions, and submit the data in a format which is compatible with SHA 2011 compatible for use in BNHA-V. Members of BNHA cell and other units of HEU along with officials of DI, Ltd were present in the signing ceremony.

**Seminar on Health development surcharge**

A seminar on *Health development surcharge* was held on April 17, 2016 at VIP Lounge Press Club, Dhaka. The seminar was jointly organized by HEU, National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC), MoHFW and Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB Trust) and attended by a wide range of participants from health, civil society, media and NGOs. Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, DG-HEU presented the key note on “health financing in Bangladesh and sources of additional resources”.

He focused on the ongoing trend of health financing, the potential fiscal space for increased government allocation and the innovative ways for resource generation that are going to be included in the forthcoming health sector program like Chowgacha model and Jhenaidah model of community participation. The presentation was followed by lively discussions, comments, question and answer.



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### **Workshop on M&E framework and joint collaboration plan on quality of care for UHC**

A workshop on *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and joint collaboration plan on quality of care for UHC* was held on April 19, 2016 at CIRDAP auditorium. The workshop was organized by The Quality Improvement Secretariat (QIS) of HEU. Mr. Faiz Ahmed, Additional Secretary (Hospital), MoHFW inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. The workshop was attended by the health managers from hospitals, districts and the Members of the DPs and NGOs who are involved in health care quality improvement in Bangladesh.



The strategic framework of the QI, and the plan for collaboration with different partners and organizations were presented in the workshop. Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam DG HEU mentioned that quality of care is one of the main dimensions of UHC and improving quality is a difficult and continuous task. A total sectoral effort is required for implementing the strategic

framework, and for that reason a plan for collaboration has been developed through consultations and negotiations. Dr. Aminul Hasan, Focal Person of QIS presented the conceptual framework and explained in detail the component of M & E for quality of care to achieve UHC.

### **Meeting on finalize criteria for empanelling private hospitals for SSK service**



A meeting was held on April 21 to review and finalize the criteria for empanelling private hospitals and clinics for purchasing services for SSK beneficiaries. Dr. Aminul Islam, focal person, SSK cell presented the revised empanelment criteria which were developed on the criteria set by the DGHS to grant license to the private clinics and hospitals. The meeting discussed the criteria and agreed to engage the private clinics to improve their facilities so that it can be consistent with the criteria and service can be procured from them.

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