



BANGLADESH LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

Helping to identify and implement localized solutions to ensure that urban residents can access and afford high-quality primary health care services.

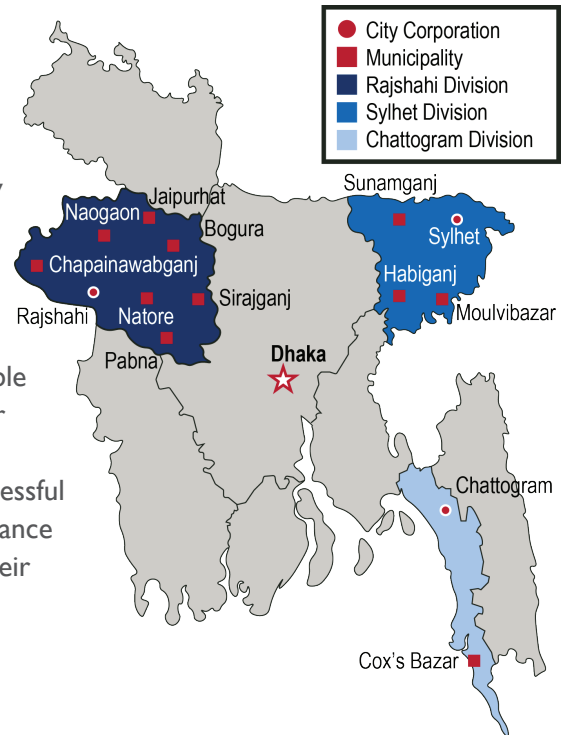
The USAID-funded Local Health System Sustainability Project (LHSS) is partnering with three city corporations and 11 district municipalities in Chattogram, Rajshahi, and Sylhet divisions to improve equitable access to quality primary health care services in urban areas. LHSS applies systems-thinking as part of a robust collaborative approach that addresses challenges around health system performance and aligns with local priorities and resources.

FOCUS AREAS

- Strengthening capacity of local government institutions (LGIs) to plan, resource, manage, and monitor primary health care service delivery.
- Promoting local-level collaboration and partnerships in strategizing for primary health care and mobilizing resources for its implementation.
- Increasing documented and disseminated knowledge about sustainably financed models and practices for urban primary health care.
- Sharing good practices through peer-learning events and advocating key lessons at the national level.

APPROACH

LHSS helps to forge new local-level collaborations and partnerships including elected representatives, local health ministries, private sector entities, and community organizations. Each has its role, but they all share a common interest in strengthening the health sector. By facilitating engagement across sectors with new and existing partners, LHSS supports LGIs' application of systems thinking to identify challenges, determine possible solutions, mobilize resources, and generate evidence for urban primary health care programs. LHSS facilitates peer-learning among supported LGIs, documenting successful models and conducting implementation research to enhance primary healthcare service delivery, and advocate for their scale-up nationally.



Geographic areas of engagement in Bangladesh

ACHIEVEMENTS

With LHSS's support, 14 LGIs have made significant progress toward establishing systems that will improve access to primary health care services for underserved urban populations. These achievements include the following:



All 14 LGIs revitalized health standing committees (HSCs) for coordination among health system actors for primary health care, which includes co-opted local health ministry representatives (e.g., offices of the Civil Surgeon and Family Planning).



Regular convening of quarterly HSC meetings led to mobilization of resources and advocacy for a dedicated primary health care budget.



Over 100 health service providers trained on Essential Health Services Package elements specific to urban community needs.



Sixty-three municipality actors within Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions trained on primary healthcare management including planning, budgeting, resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring.



Four new primary healthcare facilities opened in Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions through the collaborative approaches model involving the local health ministry and private sector partners.



Bogura Municipality contracted out four primary health care centers through a public-private partnership, which will offer free medical services to 25 percent of patients.

Period of Performance: March 2021 – August 2024

Chief of Party: Rajeev Ahuja, Abt Associates

LHSS Bangladesh is part of the global Local Health System Sustainability Project, a USAID initiative to help countries achieve sustainable, self-financed health systems that offer quality health care for all. Led by Abt Associates, the project will build local capacity to sustain strong health system performance, supporting a path to self-reliance and resilience.