



# URBAN HEALTH

## Urban Development Programme | BANGLADESH

Healthcare costs are rapidly increasing, with approximately two-thirds being covered by out-of-pocket expenditure in Bangladesh. According to a 2014 study conducted by BSR in Bangladesh, the nurse to population ratio is **1:7,788** and the doctor to population ratio is **1:46,457**. The health outcomes for people living in urban poverty are abysmal: **30-45%** of slum-dwellers are chronically ill and **60%** of their children are chronically malnourished at any given time.

BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) has prioritised urban healthcare and is implementing a targeted intervention to improve health and wellbeing outcomes of people living in urban poverty. The programme is offering both direct and indirect healthcare services, conducting routine health camps and promoting health, hygiene awareness in the low-income communities.

Community members have access to doctor and paramedics who offer primary healthcare at one-stop service centres, which UDP operates in three industrial regions around Dhaka. People living in urban slums are also referred to health services that are tailored to their needs: A total **141,878 people** living in urban low-income settlements received access to healthcare through UDP in 2018.

UDP also regularly conducts community health camps where patients can get direct access to doctors who prescribe subsidized or free medicines. In addition, UDP has also conducted eye camps and provided blood grouping services tailored to workers in the ready-made garment sector. In 2018, UDP conducted a total **260 health camps** in slums across Bangladesh.

The programme has trained peer educators and programme organisers to act as change agents in their communities by raising awareness on issues of reproductive maternal, neonatal, child health, nutrition and hygiene.

BRAC draws on more than **40 years** of experience delivering community-based affordable, scalable health and nutrition solutions to 110 million people in 64 districts of Bangladesh, including providing direct services to 2 million adolescent girls and pregnant women.

### PROFILE:

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**141,878**

People living in urban poverty accessed health services

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**15,970**

RMG workers received direct access to quality affordable healthcare

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**2500**

RMG workers will have access to customised health insurance

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**260**

Health camps organised in urban slums and RMG factories

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**80**

Patients on average per day visit the health clinic at the one-stop service centre

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**22**

MoUs signed till date with local healthcare providers

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