



## Urban Development Programme

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## International Women's Day 2022 observed

Following the UN global theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) has observed the International Women's Day (IWD) 2022 with different activities, where our global partner, government and city officials, high officials of BRAC and BRAC programmes, UDP staff, community women leaders and people living in informal settlements participated.

### Canadian High Commission: Celebrating IWD with community

We were delighted to have the Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr Lilly Nicholls who observed the International Women's Day with community women leaders and members of BRAC UDP's community development organisation (CDO) in Korail. As a part of the celebration, a team led by Lilly Nicholls from Canadian High Commission along with BRAC and UDP's high officials including Asif Saleh, Executive Director; Dr Md Liakath Ali, Director, UDP and Climate Change Programme (CCP); Nobonita Chowdhury, Director, Gender Justice and Diversity (GJD); Imamul Azam Shahi, Programme Head, UDP; Masud Ahmad, Senior Programme Manager, UDP; and other BRAC officials took part in the rally at Korail, Dhaka.

They have also visited various interventions of BRAC, and interacted with the community women leaders to discuss how they are working to improve their lives and communities. A CDO member has briefed to the visitors about the UDP's model executed in low-income informal settlements, women leadership in the community, and women's participation in non-traditional occupations.



Dr Md. Liakath Ali, Director of UDP and CCP exchanging warm greetings and addressing to the audience on 14 March 2022 during the gala ceremony of BRAC's golden jubilee.



### Floor discussion at BRAC HO

BRAC's UDP, CCP, Migration programme (MP) and Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) jointly organised a floor discussion on 8 March 2021 to celebrate the international women's day at BRAC head office (HO). Dr Md. Liakath Ali, Director of UDP and CCP inaugurated the discussion cutting a colourful cake together with all staffs of the floor. The floor discussion was graced with special remarks by Nobonita Chowdhury, Director of GJD, Dr Md. Golam Rabbani, Head of Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat, Imamul Azam Shahi, Programme Head of UDP, Shariful Hasan, Programme Head of Migration, while other officials from UDP, CCP, MP and CBF were also present. It was facilitated by Mafruha Alam, Manager (Capacity Development) and Gender Focal of UDP.

### Observed at regional level

Like the head office, all the CDOs, city development federations and regional offices marked the day by demonstrating rally, organising discussion, cutting cake and participating in different events.



### IRP WASH project

## KAAP mission visit to Bangladesh

King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Programme (KAAP) mission from Saudi Arabia visited the IRP WASH project interventions and activities during March 2022 in Dhaka and Saidpur.

The mission was, amongst others, comprised of Dr Mohammed Simsim, KAAP Head; Eng. Abdullah Saeed, KAAP Portfolio Manager; Dr Mohammed Suhail, KAAP Portfolio Manager; Br. Mohammed Javid, Portfolio Management Officer; and Md. Arif Shahid, Country Coordinator. Senior management of BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP), including Director and Programme Head, has provided necessary accompany to the visitor team.

BRAC UDP, supported by Islamic Development Bank, has been implementing a five-year long project titled "King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Programme (KAAP) for Integrated Rehabilitation Programme for WASH Services (IRP WASH)". It is being implemented from July 2020 in order to support 200,000 marginalised people living in urban informal settlements in Dhaka and Nilphamari. The project aims to provide improved WASH facilities to the marginalised low-income communities.



### Other activities of the IRP WASH project

The following project activities were also accomplished:

- Focusing on "Groundwater: making the invisible visible", the project observed "World Water Day" on 22 March 2022 through colourful rally, discussion and practical demonstration on water safety plan, where city authorities, NGOs, BRAC staff and community people participated.
- To support bottom-up approach, the project has continued quarterly meetings for 51 community development organisations and reviewed their community action plans. In addition, a bi-annual progress review and planning workshop was organised with the teams. For sustainability, the project has organised caretakers training for the constructed WASH infrastructures to ensure operation and maintenance issues.
- Apart from community sensitisation, the project has constructed two (02) storied community toilets, and dismantled 13 unhygienic toilets to serve the community with improved sanitation. Other interventions of the project, including construction of one storied toilet, water connection and tube well installation, are ongoing.
- Furthermore, the project has started conducting courtyard sessions to promote behaviour change, mainly through group discussion using the project developed hygiene promotion "Flipchart" on hygiene awareness (i.e., proper handwashing, safe water, safe sanitation, menstrual hygiene management, personal hygiene and environmental hygiene).
- Besides, the project has completed follow up visit in 6,918 households to observe hygiene practices and WASH behaviour using "Flashcard".
- High level officials from BRAC, including Programme Head of UDP along with other designated officials, visited project supported interventions both in Dhaka and Saidpur during the period.



The KAAP team visiting the BRAC Urban Healthcare and Diagnostic Centre at Mohammadpur, Dhaka



## IRP Health project

### Inception meeting of IRP Health and WASH project held

Organised by BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP), inception event of the IRP Health project titled “Integrated Rehabilitation Programme for Health (IRP Health) and WASH Services” was successfully held on 16 January 2022 at BRAC auditorium in Dhaka.

Md Selim Reza, Chief Executive Officer, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) graced the event as Chief Guest. Md. Arif Shahid, Deputy to Country Coordinator of Islamic Development Bank, Maqsd Hashem, Chief Town Planner of DNCC, Eng. Uttam Kumar Roy, Commercial Manager of Dhaka WASA, and Brig Gen Md. Zobaidur Rahman, Chief Health Officer of DNCC attended the event as Special Guests. Imamul Azam Shahi, Programme Head of UDP chaired the event, which was moderated by Masud Ahmad, Senior Programme Manager of UDP.

## Yasin regained his sight through cataract surgery

Md. Yasin, age of 60, lives in Rabeda camp at Mirpur 11, Pallabi, Dhaka. He worked at a private bank as a guard. His family ran well with his four family members.

He suddenly feels the challenges on his eyes. After a while, he started seeing everything blurred. He could not share his problem to anybody due to fear of losing his job. Meanwhile, he started using medicine, taking suggestion from a pharmacist. But there is no improvement in his eyes. Eventually, the bank authority realised that Yasin was not looking clearly. Consequently, Yasin lost his job.

Yasin and his family fell into big crisis- how they will maintain their family expenditures, and recover Yasin’s eyes. For that moment, he had stopped his son’s studies.

At that time, household survey of BRAC is going on at Rabeda Camp. Rabeya Hossain, project staff of BRAC, was introduced to Yasin while surveying the household. Yasin discussed his crisis in detail with Rabeya. Rabeya encouraged Yasin and convinced him that treatment of BRAC Urban Healthcare and Diagnostic Centre (BUHC&DC) is standard and cost is very low.



While Yasin came to BUHC&DC, the doctor examined his eyes and decided to do cataract surgery on Yasin’s eyes. Centre Manager assured Yasin that all costs of surgery will be borne by BRAC. Yasin was included in the referral system. Then he was sent to the Prime Bank Eye Hospital for cataract surgery. Yasin’s cataract operation was successfully accomplished. Yasin regained his sight through cataract surgery. Later on, Yasin has been reinstated as a bank guard.



## Urban Food Assistance project Social safety net bridging activities

BRAC Urban Development Programme, with the financial support of WFP, is implementing the Urban Food Assistance project at Duyari para and Bhasantek in Dhaka. A total of 3,270 project participants are included in five criteria of government safety net.

Participants are receiving 3,000 BDT in each month to buy nutritious food from 26 designated shops. They are also receiving 750 BDT cash back in each month if they buy five types of nutritious food with minimum 150 BDT each type/ food group. From February 2022, BRAC started to distribute the sanitary pad to the adolescent and reproductive aged women.

The following are the overall activities (during January-April 2022):

Activities	In numbers
Cash entitlement received (No of HHs)	12,310
Cash entitlement received (Amount of cash in BDT)	37,787,800
Received cash bonus (No of HHs)	8,801
Total amount of cash bonus received (BDT) [from Jan'22 to Feb'22]	6,945,706
Follow up of SBCC messages dissemination (HHs)	3,270
Orientation of shopkeepers on block chain technology (No of shopkeepers)	26
Orientation of shopkeepers on sanitary pad distribution (No of shopkeepers)	21
Participants transformed to own b-Kash account	347
Sanitary pad distribution (HHs) [Started from February 2022]	2678
Sanitary pad distribution (No of pads)	6158
Rice packet distribution for 16 days campaign (HHs)	773
Monthly meeting with shop owners	03
Soap distribution to the shopkeepers	300
Mask distribution to staffs	420
Hand sanitizer distribution for staff safety	65
Donor visit (SIDA high official visit, and UNFPA and WFP visit)	3
Staff orientated on basic nutrition knowledge, social and behavior change	16

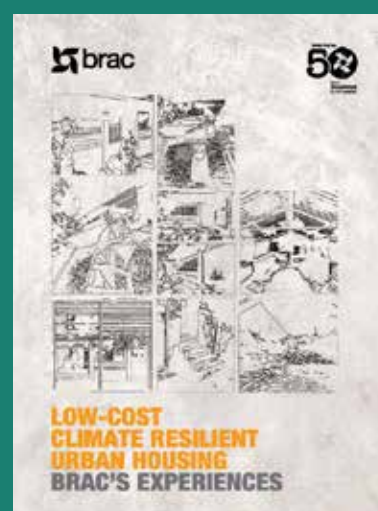
### New book published

BRAC Urban Development Programme has published a new book titled 'Low-cost climate resilient urban housing – BRAC's experiences' in December 2021.

This handbook showcases various examples of affordable, low-cost and climate-resilient housing, constructed with a participatory approach that is suitable for people living in slums and low-income settlements. To a large extent, this document aims to enhance the basic technical understanding of the practitioners. It will prove to be of invaluable guidance to all kinds of housing projects for low-income and vulnerable communities. We do believe government agencies, nongovernment organisations, practitioners like engineers and architects, and community groups will find it useful.

For more details, please visit the link:

<http://www.brac.net/program/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Urban-Housing-e-book.pdf>





## Regional learning sharing events

### Responding to COVID-19 in urban informal settlements: Learning from the ARISE project

BRAC Urban Development Programme and BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health have jointly organised three (3) regional learning sharing events titled “Responding to COVID-19 in urban informal settlements: Learning from the ARISE project” in Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka. These events aimed at sharing the learnings of the ARISE Responsive Funds projects with different stakeholders from government, private organisations, and low-income communities.

In Khulna, the learning sharing event was held on 20 March 2022 in CSS AVA Centre. Chief Executive Officer of Khulna City Corporation Laker Tazul Islam attended the event as Chief Guest. Chief Health Officer Dr. Swapon Kumar Halder participated as Special Guest.

In Rajshahi, another learning sharing event was taken place on 24 March 2022 in the Grand Riverview Hotel. Chief Executive Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation Dr ABM Sharif Uddin attended the programme as Chief Guest, and the Chief

Health Officer Dr FAM Anjuman Ara Begum participated as Special Guest.

In Dhaka, the learning sharing event was held on 31 March 2022 in CIRDAP auditorium. Honourable Chief Health Officer (Additional Responsibility) Md. Fazle Shamsul Kabir graced the event as Chief Guest. The event was chaired by Imamul Azam Shahi, Programme Head, BRAC UDP.

Through these learning sharing events, the struggles of the low-income communities during COVID pandemic were shared. During the pandemic situation, the activities carried out by the ARISE Responsive Fund in urban informal settlements were portrayed in the events. In all the learning sharing events, the representatives from different stakeholders have emphasised on the integrated approach through the public-NGO-community partnership so that the people living in urban informal settlements could have access to their basic needs.



## Urban agriculture promotion

BRAC UDP distributed seeds of different vegetables and saplings in low-income communities during the 1st quarter of 2022 in order to get back urban greenery and make cities liveable for all.

## Visit to Chattogram port city

A team from BRAC Urban Development Programme and Climate Change Programme visited several places of Chattogram's port area. The team observed the garbage management system and marine environment situation there. PSA Marine Bangladesh has extended the whole support in this regard. It is crucial to preserve the marine environment, and maintain the marine garbage practicing system in a sustainable way.



## Food support to waste management workers

BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP), in partnership with the Commercial Bank of Ceylon and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), is implementing a project titled "COVID response for waste management workers in DNCC". Under this project, food support has been distributed amongst waste management workers on 22 February 2022 at community service centre in Korail, Dhaka.

The objectives of the project strives in ensuring child, adolescent and women waste pickers, have the knowledge, awareness and right tools to keep themselves from COVID-19, and the children have the aspirations needed to change their life and improve their health and wellbeing.



## ERMG project Annual review, planning and learning-sharing workshop 2022

Organised by the Empowering the RMG Workers Living in Urban Slums of Dhaka (ERMG) project, a two-day annual review, planning and learning sharing workshop was held on 02-03 March 2022 at BRAC Learning Centre, Gulshan, Dhaka. In the workshop, achievements, lessons learnt and best practices of 2021 were shared, and planning for the year 2022 was accomplished.

The workshop was inaugurated with the welcome speech of Dr Md. Liakath Ali, Director, Urban Development Programme (UDP), BRAC and Climate Change Programme, BRAC and BRAC International. He provided strategic directions to continue and improve the services of the project, and appraised the services of one stop service centre (OSSC) model. The Programme Head, Senior Programme Manager, Programme Manager and all other staff from head office and field offices participated in the workshop.

Representatives from the project implementing partners of BRAC (i.e., HNPP, SDP, SELP, MF and BIED) participated in the workshop. Besides, resource persons from Ministry of Labour, BGMEA, factory owners and APON Wellbeing Ltd shared their experience on the wellbeing of RMG workers.

The key discussion and decisions of the workshop were as follows:

- Sustainability of the project by increasing income and searching funds;
- Opened a window for making affiliation with BRAC and BGMEA, and partnership with APON Wellbeing Ltd.; and
- New design of the project with new initiatives for the year of 2022.

### Bridge affiliation meeting

During the period, a total of three (3) bridge affiliation meetings were organised with RMG factory management at Tongi and Savar in Dhaka. The factory management recognised effectiveness and benefits of OSSCs initiatives, and agreed to receive services with contribution.

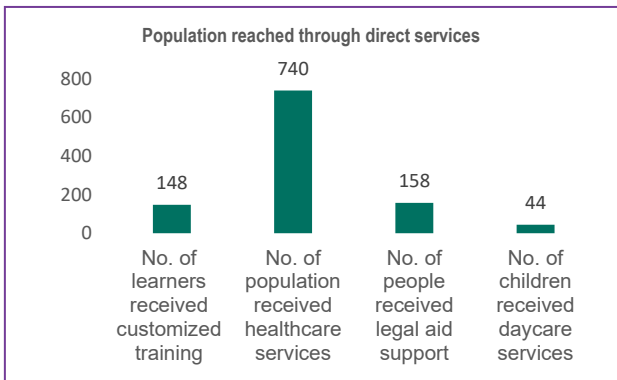
The bridge affiliation meetings play a vital role to develop workers and owners/ managements relationship and an enabling environment within the factory. The initiative ensures required services for RMG workers and outlines new scope for further works in collective manners.



### MoU signing with RMG factories

Due to extension of the project up to December 2022, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 30 RMG factories was signed. Under the MoU, factory owners extended their commitment for 2022 to receive health, legal and financial inclusion services through OSSCs for their workers.

#### ERMG in numbers (January to March 2022)



### Other major new initiatives:

- Nutrition supplement package for RMG workers specially for the pregnant and lactating mothers
- E-health/ telemedicine service
- Mental health/ psychosocial counselling
- Piloting business model of fair price shop for RMG workers
- Ergonomic session within the factory
- Breast feeding corner within the factory
- Blood grouping and eye camp

## EMPOWER project activity in a snapshot

2,259 Households received seeds and seedling to promote homestead gardening including climate adaptive technology	10 City celebrated International Women's Day	45 Youth group formed
44 Youth adda organised at community level	1,392 CDO members including men and youth participated awareness session on VAWG	210 Community members received training on financial literacy, inclusion and savings, and occupational health safety and hygiene
		94 Urban community risk assessment and community action plan preparation



## EMPOWER project

### Workshops on operationalising 2022 EMPOWER project activities

BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) organised two workshops on "Operationalising 2022 EMPOWER project activities". The workshops were taken place from 14-16 February 2022 at BRAC Learning Centre (BLC) in Uttara, Dhaka, and 22-24 February 2022 at BLC, in Gulshan, Dhaka. A total of 63 staff from regional offices of UDP attended the workshops. Dr. Md Liakath Ali, Director, UDP, BRAC and Climate Change Programme, BRAC and BRAC International, has inaugurated the events.

#### Objectives

- Risk informed and inclusive community mobilisation and action plan preparation;
- Discussion on 2022 AOP and budget activities; and
- Data-driven decision making process and programme monitoring.

BRAC strategic direction and planning have been changed. Aligning with BRAC strategies, sustainable development goals and government policies, UDP strategic planning, focus and activities will be conducted.

In 2022, UDP activities will be conducted in urban as well as in twenty peri-urban areas. In this case, all the activities have to be performed at the right time with the dedicated efforts of all. Every activity has to include people with disability. Non-traditional livelihood and youth group forum need to be added in a new way. It also needs to identify and address community issues through urban community risk assessment.



### Canadian High Commission's visit to Rangpur

The team is visiting UDP's interventions and various activities in Rangpur on 29 March 2022. The delegation talked to indigenous people in the community, and observed how BRAC is transforming their lives and livelihoods.

#### Advisors

Md. Liakath Ali, PhD  
Imamul Azam Shahi  
Saif Iqbal

#### Editor

Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique

#### Design

Abu Nayeem Md. Shakib

#### BRAC

BRAC Centre  
75 Mohakhali  
Dhaka 1212  
Bangladesh

T: +88 02 2222 81265  
F: +99 02 2222 63542  
E: info@brac.net  
W: www.brac.net

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