



Urban Development Programme

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July-September 2021

8,444 patients received primary healthcare in 3 urban healthcare and diagnostic centre

Integrated Rehabilitation Programme for Health Services (IRPH) is continuing OPD services through three Urban Healthcare and Diagnostic Centre (UHC&DC) and one outreach center in Mohammadpur and Mirpur under Dhaka North City Corporation and Saidpur under Nilphamari Municipality. In the outgoing quarter, the three UHC and DCs and one outreach center provided

primary healthcare services to 8,444 patients. Of them, 2018 patients received eye care services.

Since January, 322 patients have been referred from UHC&DC to tertiary level hospitals. Full-fledged laboratory service has been accelerated with radiology, imaging, and pathology.

Total 1422 diagnostic tests were done in August and September.

Identification of suspected TB patients, collection of presumptive, diagnosis with chest X-ray and Gene-expert and DOTS service delivery is ongoing through close collaboration with National Tuberculosis Control Programme stakeholders.

Since the advent of the monsoon, Bangladesh has observed an uptrend in dengue cases. Average 200 dengue cases are being reported every day. The dengue menace may worsen the already battered country's healthcare system.

BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP), in collaboration with Dhaka North and South city corporations, and Saidpur municipality of Nilphamari, has reached 450,000 people through awareness campaigns and primary healthcare services to prevent the outbreak.

Awareness campaign

UDP has started miking, rally and crash awareness campaigns by involving community people in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Kallyanpur, Bhashantek, Korail, Shahid Nagar, Dhalpur and Manik Nagar under Dhaka North and South city corporations and Saidpur municipality of Nilphamari.

In August, 21 awareness campaigns were organised, involving religious leaders, influential personnel, members of community development organisations (CDO) and youth groups, to make people aware of vector control and infection prevention measures in urban low-income settlements.

Response to dengue uptrend

A total of 168,000 community people participated in these events.

Poster and leaflet distribution

Till September, 7,200 posters, 7,700 leaflets and 3,000 stickers on Dengue and COVID-19 symptoms, preventing Dengue, and referral information were distributed among the community people. To ensure community engagement and improve public awareness IRPH observed a total 27 dengue prevention campaigns. In July, 20,000 dengue awareness leaflets and stickers were distributed in different low-

income communities in Dhaka, thus people living in the informal settlements can learn how to prevent dengue and take necessary steps to control the menace.

Healthcare support

A number of 83 community health

workers (CHW) are deployed to raise awareness at the household level on preventive measures, symptoms along with advice and support for referral to BRAC urban healthcare and diagnostic centres. 252 suspected patients with symptoms were freely tested at UHC & DC and some of them were referred to tertiary level hospitals.

Spraying and fogging

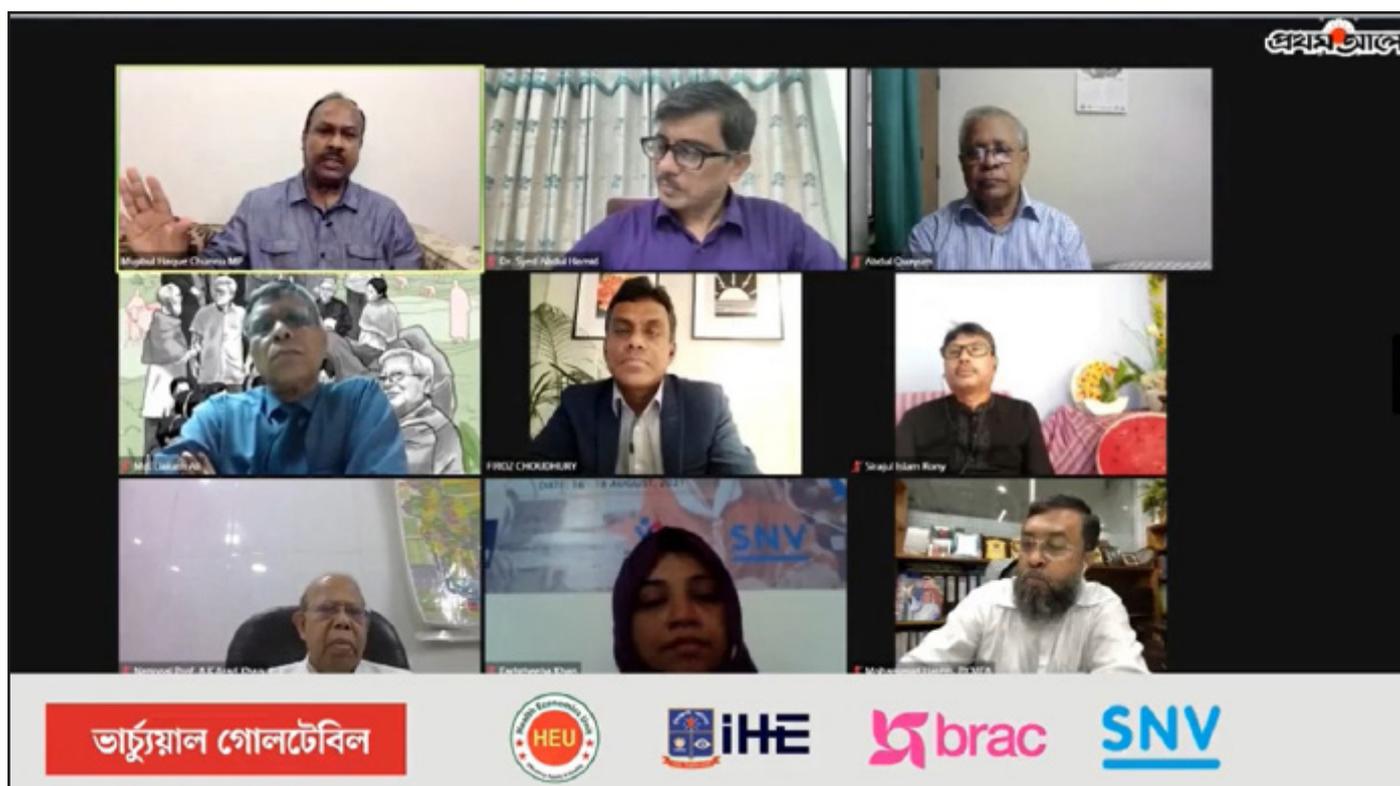
UDP has accelerated the destruction of mosquito hotspots by spraying and fogging mosquitocide. Around 7,000 feet of drain were cleaned to facilitate normal water flow. 190 litres of larvicide and 135 litres of adulticide was applied to control the vector in the working communities.



BRAC staff spraying mosquitocide to prevent Dengue menace in Saidpur.

Roundtable on Health Insurance

Nationwide initiative a must for cutting out of pocket healthcare cost: Experts call



Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Employment Ministry Md Mujibul Haque MP underscored the national initiative in collaboration with government and private entities on health insurance coverage for readymade garment workers and other wage earners.

The lawmaker called for public insurance companies to offer health insurance for low-income earners. He came up with the suggestions while addressing a virtual roundtable on 'Health Insurance for RMG Workers in Bangladesh: Designing Policy and Management Structure' on 18 August 2021.

BRAC Urban Development Programme has organised the roundtable in collaboration with Health Economics Unit (HEU) of Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Institute of Health Economics (IHE) of Dhaka University, Netherland-based development organisation SNV, and the daily Prothom Alo.

HEU Director General Dr Md Shahadat Hossain Mahamud said that the RMG sector already has a systematic and formal structure in collaboration with BGMEA, BKMEA, and Central Fund of Labour and Employment Ministry, which enables the sector to be the pioneer of institutional health insurance policy for workers' wellbeing. Other sectors' workers could be brought under health insurance in phases.

BRAC Climate Change and Urban Development programmes director Dr Md Liakath Ali said the country should introduce health insurance for all wage-earners, and the RMG sector is ready to introduce it. He opined that health insurance could be scaled up if it becomes successful in the RMG sector.

Bangladesh Diabetic Association President AK Azad Khan suggested that health insurance should be tax-free. Facilitated by Prothom Alo's assistant editor Firoz Choudhury, the roundtable was also addressed by Central Fund DG Dr Selina Akter, IHE Professor Dr Syed Abdul Hamid, HEU's research director Dr Md Nurul Amin, ANM Saifuddin from BGMEA, Mohammad Hatem from BKMEA, Pragati Life Insurance chief executive officer M Jalaul Azim, Gonosastha Kendra's Dr Rejaul Huq, and Bangladesh Garments Workers' League president Sirajul Alam Rony.

In his keynote speech, Dr Syed Abdul Hamid said several NGOs have been operating various pilot projects on health insurance to support RMG workers in the country. Participation in health insurance has eased healthcare costs and increased productivity of RMG workers.

Although most of the projects' timeline is at the end, no policy or management framework has yet been developed to scale up the projects or undertaken permanent initiatives. The discussants also

informed that a network involving HEU, IHE, BRAC, SNV and Ganashastho Kendro have been working for policy formulation and the establishment of the institutional infrastructure to the policy formulation levels. To read the full supplementary, please scan the QR code:



ABC Radio Talkshow
Speakers underscore health insurance for all RMG workers
Out of 4 million RMG workers, approximately 80,000 workers are currently covered by health insurance under three projects. Effective initiatives must be taken to continue the health insurance projects, and to gradually scale up the other industries' workers.

The views came up at a radio talkshow hosted by Nadia Islam, producer and radio host of ABC Radio, where Dr Syed Abdul Hamid, Professor, University of Dhaka, Dr Md Nurul Amin, Research Director, Health Economics Unit of Health and Family Welfare Ministry, and Sk Mojibul Huq, Programme Manager, BRAC Urban Development Programme expressed their logic in favour of health insurance for RMG workers.

Ariful inspired by his wife, now works with her

"I come from a big extended family - four siblings, as well as my wife and our son. When my father died, I was very young, and I inherited the responsibility of supporting the whole family.

I got a job in a bakery, but the pay was irregular. I tried pulling rickshaws to earn a bit extra, but it was not enough. My wife and I moved to Dhaka looking for jobs in factories together, but neither of us were equipped with the skill or experience needed.

My wife enrolled in free training on sewing machine operation provided by BRAC. After three months of training, she got a job in a factory, and we set up our home with her first salary. Inspired by her, I enrolled in the same

training, and through BRAC's one stop service centre, secured a job in the same factory.

My wife and I are now supporting our whole family - we recently organised the wedding of my younger sister, and bought educational materials for my brother."

Ariful Islam is a participant of BRAC's urban development programme. The programme has reached over 1 million people from urban slums in 20 cities of Bangladesh with essential services, such as improved sanitation and waste management facilities, safe drinking water, healthcare, housing, food and nutrition, urban agriculture, renewable energy, skills training and alternative livelihood opportunities.



BRAC daycare facilities support working mother in Tongi

During this quarter, ERMG project and BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED) jointly organised a refresher training on play lab childcare for 16 home based daycare entrepreneurs in Tongi and Gazipur.

A recycle material workshop was also organised to train how to prepare different toys for children with available recycle materials. A total of 51 children are being nurtured in nine home-based daycare facilities.

17 sanitation facilities constructed in low-income communities in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Saidpur



Integrated rehabilitation programme for WASH services has constructed and renovated 17 sanitation facilities in Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Saidpur low-income communities.

BRAC staff made the community aware of frequent handwashing and health protocols

to stay safe during COVID-19 outbreak. Under the project, a tubewell with overhead reservoir and two stand posts were installed for providing safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

The project has successfully accomplished quarterly

meetings for 51 community development organisations (CDOs) and six monthly progress review and planning workshops with Mirpur and Mohammadpur teams. In addition, a total of 359 community people have received free registration for COVID-19 vaccine through the campaigns. The project has also organised

an advocacy workshop and campaigns for providing legal water connections in informal settlements through weaving the requirement of holding numbers for people living in the slum.

BRAC Urban Development Programme is implementing the WASH project to support 200,000 people living in urban informal settlements in Dhaka and Nilphamari, supported by Islamic Development Bank.

High level officials from BRAC, including Tushar Bhowmick, Chief Financial Officer, Dr Md Liakath Ali, Director of Climate Change and Urban Development Programme, Dr Md Akramul Islam, Director of Communicable Diseases and WASH Programme, Dr Morseda Chowdhury, Director of Health, Nutrition and Population Programme, and Mohammed Abdus Salam, Associate Director of UDP, visited the project interventions both in Dhaka and Saidpur.

3,500 people work with waste supported in 13 Dhaka's communities



BRAC Urban Development Programme, in partnership with The Coca-Cola Foundation, has been implementing a pilot project, 'Improving the Wellbeing of Waste-Workers in Dhaka City' since January 2021 to improve the wellbeing of people working with waste in the city.

With a tailored service package delivered through community service centres, the project is working with 3,500 people who are dealing with waste to ensure better and safe lives for them.

The project began by collaborating

with people who are employed in waste collection as well as their surrounding communities, to identify their needs. Five community platforms were set up to provide central points for need-based services to the workers. Based on the findings of the collaboration, basic healthcare services were provided through health camps.

In addition, awareness sessions for the workers and their children were conducted to raise awareness on vital issues including safe management of waste, hygiene, financial inclusion and

Achievements (Jan – Sept 2021)
70,000 hygiene products distributed
10,500 personal protective equipment provided
3,500 people work with waste have access to improved living conditions
120 awareness sessions conducted on safe handling of waste, hygiene and financial inclusion
100 awareness sessions arranged for children of waste workers
15 health camps organised
8 WASH blocks constructed
5 community service centres setup

road safety. Water, sanitation and hygiene blocks were established to increase access to water, and personal protective equipment were distributed through the community platforms.

From July to September 2021, waste workers received 3,500 face masks, 3,500 hand-sanitizer and 25,000 soap bars. They also received free medical checkup by and general medicines.

“I work to keep your cities clean”- Mahmuda

A few years ago, I migrated from my village to Dhaka, to seek better livelihood opportunities. Since then, I have been working as a waste collector in the city's streets, and my work is integral for the #recycling and proper waste disposal.

When I became pregnant a few months ago, it became difficult for me to continue the gruelling work. I also did not have adequate access to affordable healthcare facilities near my home in Korail, which is also one of the largest slums in Dhaka.

That is when I learned about BRAC's health camps - situated right here in Korail.

Upon reaching out to them, I have been receiving regular health check-ups, vitamin supplements and basic medication from the camp. I am going through a healthy pregnancy, and I am eagerly waiting to hold my baby in my arms.”

- Mahmuda





COVID-19 How UDP prevent and protect?

17,833 HHs received cash support

2,258 HHs received food support

140,348 reusable masks distributed

62,000 surgical masks distributed in support of HNPP

467,767 people received primary health-care service

343,791 awareness leaflets, stickers and posters circulated

6,039 people registered for vaccination thru UDP technical support

The delta variant continues to ravage Bangladesh, with July having been most deadly to COVID-19. The annual celebration of Eid-UI-Azha in the country created new hotspots, as crowds filled cattle markets. Amid the situation, BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) participated in different awareness campaigns in cattle markets, several hotspots and communities, distributed masks and awareness materials, and provided cash support to the most deserving households.

Awareness campaign in cattle markets

BRAC UDP conducted a 4-day-long awareness campaign in 10 cattle markets under Dhaka North and South City Corporation to wear masks and follow health safety regulations.

In support of BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP), UDP Dhaka team from 17th-20th July 2021 distributed 62,000 surgical masks to cattle traders, buyers and mass people at Postogola, Golapbag, Donia, Dhupkhola, Rahamatganj, Aftabnagar, Bashundhara 300 Feet, Purbachal Nilar Market, Rupnagar, and Gabtoli cattle markets.

During the mass campaign, the UDP team distributed 10,000 leaflets on health hygiene safety and exhibited how to wear masks and hand wash properly.

ARISE raises hope to fight agansit COVID-19

ARISE Responsive Fund has continued its activities to make the community people aware and minimise the spread of Coronavirus through different activities. These activities include health camps, hygiene material distribution, vaccine registration campaigns, and covid awareness campaigns.

In September, ARISE Responsive Fund made 500 households aware on

COVID-19 through community development organisations.

Besides, 45 community leaders learnt their role in protecting community people in health emergencies. BRAC distributed 55,000 leaflets and stickers and broadcasted COVID-19 dos and don'ts through miking. 700 individuals received primary healthcare prescription and medicines.

Since the inception, the project provided 33,000 reusable masks, 12,000 soap bars, and 6,000 packets of detergent powders, thus community people can stay protected.

Safety net bridging programme 3202 HHs get monthly cash for nutrition intake

BRAC and World Food Programme (WFP) have been implementing emergency food assistance support in urban low-income communities of Duaripara para and Bhasantek in Dhaka North City Corporation.

With the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the project's activities are:

- 3,202 QR card distributed to the





Dakche Abar Desh

From 1 July, a stricter lockdown came into effect to restrict movements in and out of Dhaka to control COVID-19. In this time, BRAC UDP again came up with cash support of TK 1500 to every 8,500 households in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Satkhira.

and Saidpur (Nilphamari). The project has facilitated 8,725 people on vaccination registration of COVID-19.

Advocacy & communication campaign reached 20,000 people

The ILO supported 'Advocacy and Communication Campaign on COVID-19' reached approximately 20,000 people with mask, soap, detergent and bleaching powder in Gazipur and Chattogram city corporation areas.

verified participants

- 3,202 participants received cash BDT 3,000 each in every month
- 2,763 participants received 10% cashback on buying food nutritious items
- 6,463 IEC leaflets, posters and stickers distributed
- 19 hand washing devices setup
- 200 soaps and 200 masks received by all designated shops

the households also received 25-30% cashback in the next month.

The USAID supported project, jointly implemented by BRAC and WFP, also provided food baskets to 2218 HHs, out of 36,000 households. To promote healthy diets and hygiene practice, 1,800 soaps and sanitizers were provided, 3,640 reusable masks, 8,500 leaflets and posters were distributed.

BRAC made people of the low-income communities aware on COVID-19 through posters, stickers, leaflets, audio jingle, miking, SMS, voice call, social media campaign and video show. BRAC community mobilisers made door-to-door household visits, and conducted courtyard sessions, tea-stall meetings, CDO and PG meetings. The achievement of the project are:

- 10,258 packets corona protective materials distributed
- 30,914 reusable masks distributed
- 41,450 poster, stickers and leaflets distributed
- 5,824 people received SMS and voice call messages
- 11,560 participants reached through meetings
- 18,546,146 people reached via social media boosting

Urban Food Assistance helps people to adopt new normal

In July, 7,644 households living in low-income settlements in Kallyanpur and Sattola under Dhaka North City Corporation were provided Tk 3,000 every month for purchasing nutritious food. Upon purchasing nutritious food,

IRPH supports people for vaccine registration

Integrated Rehabilitation Programme for Health Services (IRPH) has implemented basic preventive measures against COVID-19 by developing and disseminating behavior change communication materials (leaflets, stickers and posters) in Mirpur, Mohammadpur



Rokhsana Small support in a crucial time is a great reward

During the health and economic pandemic, when a rising number of low-income people lost their earnings, people living in low-income communities, like Rokhsana's family, suffered the most. Rokhsana lives in Uttar Ashratpur in Ranpur City Corporation with her husband Md Taher, and their three children. Of them, 18-year old elder son Refat is a person with disability.

Rokhsana used to sell street food and earned BDT 200-250 per day, while her husband Md Taher worked at a welding shop. She also worked as a housekeeper during his rest time. Before the lockdown, they lived in acute hardship that became worse during the pandemic as Rokhsana and Taher both lost their jobs. They even could not feed their children thrice a day and lived with starvation, half-fed and lending from others.

On the eve of Eid-UI-Adha, Rokhsana Begum received BDT 1,500 through bKash from BRAC. After getting the support, Rokhsana bought some rice, meat, milk and vermicelli to celebrate the festival. This cash support really helped a lot and brought smiles on the festive day. "A small support in a crucial time is a great reward", Rokhsana recalled.

Keen for a spicy snack? Visit Abdur Rob!

Abdur is from Madaripur in rural Bangladesh, but he sells his delicious fuchka and chotpoti (popular spicy street snacks) in Dhaka.

Abdur always wanted his own business, but he did not have any capital, so he could not get a loan for the big push he needed to start. While working as a guard in Dhaka, he occasionally made and sold street food, but it was not consistent, because he often could not afford to buy the ingredients.

In 2020, he approached BRAC's urban development programme, under the street vendor support project. He was approved to access capital and soon had an uninterrupted supply of ingredients.

The big push worked - he is now selling and earning double than he was previously, and has started to save.



Aid for sustainable economic recovery

In the July-September quarter, UDP provided livelihood support to 1,170 people who were severely affected by income loss due to the pandemic and environmental disasters.

UDP has also planned to provide skills training for unemployed males, females, and youth living in low-income informal settlements for ensuring livelihood security and employment in post-COVID situations.

In this quarter, 109 people in 14 cities received skills training on tailoring, sewing machine operation, computer and business services, graphics design, internet services, mobile services, beauty parlor, handicrafts, etc.

Partnership Collaboration UDP signs MoU with public entities, NGOs

In partnership with the Urban Development Directorate (UDD) and Gaibandha Municipality, BRAC Urban Development Programme supports the preparation of the Gaibandha Master Plan. With the presence of relevant officials, both parties reviewed and discussed the overall progress and process of the project. BRAC supports UDD in providing field activities such as GIS data validation, meeting with town officials, elected representatives and relevant stakeholders on 19 and 20 September respectively. Prior to the approval of the database, the Gaibandha Master Plan would be prepared. In carrying out such activities, UDD and UDP team visited Gaibandha to complete the physical survey and digital elevation map check.

For Sustainable Street Vendor Management

in DNCC, a collaborative initiative has been taken, and preparatory activities including field survey and social research has already been accomplished. A joint working committee has been formed by the DNCC where both parties attended. To extend the activities, some sharing and progress meetings were also held at DNCC premises where the party's relevant officials participated. Under this collaboration, UDP met respective zonal officials, the senior urban planner, city officials, local councilors, and other relevant stakeholders. Accommodating stakeholders' feedback, the final study report has been prepared and shared with DNCC.

UDP has signed partnership agreements with the Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and NGOs. This quarter, UDP

signed a formal partnership with Savar Municipality, Coxsbazar Municipality, Rangpur City Corporation, Khulna City Corporation and Gaibandha Municipality. Under these agreements, UDP will implement several activities applying the public-NGO community partnership model, where cost-sharing will be ensured. In addition, UDP has also amended the agreement with UDD and BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health.

To create job opportunities for unemployed people, and improve livelihood, UDP has signed MoU with various training institutions, namely, UCEP, Self-Development Technical Training Institute, Rishilpi Handicraft and Rangdhanu. The organisations will provide skills training at a minimum cost, where BRAC Skills Development Programme is not available.

It also established a linkage with the government training institutions including Technical Training Centre, Village Education Resource Center, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, Skills for Employment Investment Programme enlisted institutions, etc.

UDP has also signed MoUs with the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh and the Smiling Sun. Under these agreements, partner organisations will provide essential services including healthcare at an affordable cost for the community people.



MoU was signed between BRAC Urban Development Programme and Chattogram City Corporation to strengthen cooperation to make city liveable for all. City mayor Md. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, along with high-ups of the City Corporation and BRAC was present in the MoU signing ceremony.



To get back urban greenery and make cities liveable for all, BRAC urban development programme in July to September 2021 quarter has distributed seeds of different vegetables to 2641 households, and 5000 saplings to 3065 households in low-income communities across 20 working cities.

Inclusive community infrastructure built across 20 cities

BRAC UDP between July and September quarter has constructed 12 inclusive WASH blocks in low-income communities in Dhaka, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Khulna, Satkhira, Rajshahi and Gaibandha city. Under the EMPOWER project, the WASH blocks were designed considering facilities for women, children and people with disability.

Moreover, eight water points at five cities and a mini-pipe water supply system were installed in Narayanganj to ensure safe drinking water for the communities.

We have also constructed 1,269 ft of drain, 3,643 ft of footpath and 1,210 ft of drainage with slabs at Dhaka, Mymensingh, Satkhira, Gaibandha, Savar, Barisal, Cox's Bazar and Narayanganj. Footpaths are constructed above the maximum flood level. A special intervention in response to fecal sludge management



(FSM) of six sanitation facilities was inaugurated. UDP strictly maintains personal health safety measures for the field workers as well as masons, labourers and community people to minimise the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

UDP is facilitating communities to ensure improved waste management, access road, walkway, street light, water supply, sludge management and drainage considering disaster and climate change.

1,922 participants attend 20 capacity building training

BRAC urban development programme has arranged 20 capacity building trainings and orientations for its staff during the quarter.

A total of 1,922 participants attended the training sessions. The highlighted issues covered were as follows: BRAC operational policy and procedure; gender mainstreaming; supportive supervision, monitoring and implementation; BRAC values and its culture; health, hygiene and COVID-19 awareness; enterprise development; safeguarding and disability Inclusion; smart

data management, advocacy and communication; urban climate change and disaster risk reduction; and leadership and organisational development.

The major objectives of the training programmes were to improve the skills, attitude and professionalism; to enrich the knowledge on those particular topics; to find out their gaps in monitoring so that they will be able to implement any assignments smoothly; and to encourage them to align with BRAC vision, mission and values. The training for capacity building applied the participatory learning methodologies.



A capacity building session in progress

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