

CHORUS Research Consortium

“From Evidence to Impact” Policy Dialogue Series

“From Fragmentation to Harmonisation - Strengthening Urban Health Systems through Provider Partnerships and Collaborations: Findings from four LMIC cities”

To mark **Urban October**, and **World Cities Day 2025**, the CHORUS Research Consortium is bringing together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to share findings, lessons and insights on strengthening health systems within the urban context in order to better meet the needs of the urban poor.

CHORUS has worked with formal, private and informal providers, service users and urban poor residents to co-create linkages with the wider health system to improve the coverage and quality of health services in urban poor areas.

Join us for a lively discussion on the risks and advantages of linking informal and private providers across the different contexts, and the governance structures and data linkages required. We will hear from policy makers implementing these linkages and the priorities, challenges and lessons for improving access to quality healthcare services for poor urban populations.

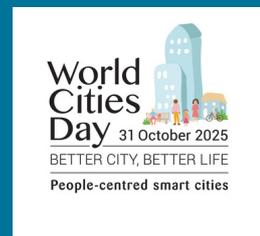
URBAN OCTOBER



THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

10:00 AM (UK TIME)

- 10.00 Welcome
- 10.10 CHORUS Findings on linking the plurality of providers
- 10.20 Panel discussion on the challenges and advantages of implementing linkages between private and informal healthcare providers
- 10.50 Q&A
- 11.05 Closing Remarks



[Register here to secure your place](#)



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Speakers



Dr. Khaleda Islam
Director, Primary
Healthcare (retired),
Directorate General of
Health Services,
Bangladesh

Dr. Islam is a member of the Strategic & Technical Advisory Group, NCD (STAG NCD) of WHO Geneva, and worked with MoHFW to develop and review the Health Population, Nutrition sector programs (HPNSP). Her area of expertise is Primary Health Care (PHC), health policy, planning, health system strengthening, focusing on NCD, aging care, emergency response for disasters, and conflict. She is experienced in outbreak response, surveillance, International Health Regulations, Medical Education, and Health Workforce Development, and has also conducted emergency relief and health system strengthening assignments in Sri Lanka, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Liberia, and South Punjab, Pakistan. She has also worked with WHO, GIZ, MERLIN, World Vision, Save the Children, CARE, JICA, and the Resolve to Save Lives program, as well as the Rohingya Refugee and was an implementation research facilitator of WHO/TDR. Dr Islam is a Medical Graduate and holds a Master of Public Health, Dhaka University and a Master of Medical Education, Dundee University, UK.

Dr. Ayim is a Public Health Specialist, developing GHS strategic policies and plans to contribute to the development of national health policies. He leads the training and dissemination of Community Scorecards throughout CHPS zones, health centres and district hospitals to promote accountability and data utilization from the community perspective by decision makers. Previously, Dr. Ayim was the Deputy Director Policy at the GHS Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PPMED), leading the implementation of the Network of Practice strategy of the Ghana Universal Coverage Roadmap 2020-2030. He also led an innovative Policy Visibility Drive, an initiative to summarize policies into a publically available video, ensuring policies were accessible to all.

Dr. Ayim is a Fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS) and a training coordinator at Faculty of Public Health in Accra. His research interest is in decentralization, concepts of power and decision space in the implementation of policies. Starting his career as a Medical Officer in a rural district hospital, then moving to head another hospital, he developed his interest in leadership in health systems and public health. Between 2004 and 2016, he was a District Director of Health Services, leading teams to create teleconsultation systems to improve linkages between District Hospitals and Subdistrict facilities, to help reduce maternal and child mortality. He has also coordinated HIV prevention activities among five W.African countries, and worked with the West and Central African Partnership for Health Policy and Systems and Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent project.



Dr. Andrews Ayim
Deputy Director
Public Health, Bono
East Region, Ghana,
Ghana Health
Services (GHS).
Ghana



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Speakers



Mr. Subash Bastola
Public Health Officer,
Health Division,
Pokhara Metropolitan
City, Nepal.

Mr Bastola oversees division programmes across all wards of Pokhara, tracking performance and results. He is the focal person for Non- Communicable Diseases and Mental Health programmes in Pokhara, serving as the acting chief for approvals and decision making. He has a more than 9 years of experience in the government sector, with a focus on policy process and developing official documents. He has supported the development of the mental health strategy, municipal health policy, emergency contingency planning and many more, for immediate and for long term needs. He worked closely with the CHORUS team in Nepal, coordinating and supervising all private pharmacies and public health facilities that were part of the intervention across Pokhara City. He remains committed to a strengthened health system, improving access to screening and care, and advancing public health intervention for the people of Nepal especially in Pokhara. Mr Bastola holds a dual master's degrees (MPH and MPA) from Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Ikedichuchwu Emmanuel Ayogu is a licensed medical social worker, with over five years experience in social work practice. He holds a degree in social work from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, and has particular expertise in health promotion and communications. He is working at the newly formed Urban Health Unit, as part of his role with the Enugu State Primary Healthcare Development Agency.



Ikedichukwu Emmanuel Ayogu
Desk Officer, Urban Health Unit,
Enugu State Primary Healthcare
Development Agency, Nigeria



Prof. Helen Elsey
CHORUS Co-Director
University of York

Prof. Helen Elsey is the Research Co-Director of the CHORUS Consortium, and will Chair this event.

Prof. Elsey brings over a decade of working in community development in Sub-Saharan Africa, and is a trained public health professional. Her research focuses on urban health in low and middle income countries, with particular focus on gender, equity, and the development and evaluation of complex public health interventions to improve the health of disadvantaged populations.



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CHORUS Research Linking Urban Health Providers



[Policy Brief: Strengthening Urban Health Systems through Public-Private Partnership: Lessons from four Countries](#)

[Policy Dialogue: Strengthening Urban Health Systems - Prospects & Challenges](#)

[Paper: Rethinking health systems in the context of urbanisation: challenges from four rapidly urbanising low-and-middle-income countries](#)

- ['Developing and institutionalising health system linkages between the public and informal sectors, for improved equitable provision of appropriate essential health services in urban slums in Nigeria](#)
- ['Strengthening urban health systems through an Urban Health Data Hub, Nepal'](#)
- ['Design options for the implementation of public-private networks of practice, to improve coverage of preventative and promotive health services in urban Ghana](#)
- ['Design and evaluate appropriate strategic purchasing models and the capacity strengthening of purchasers in urban Bangladesh](#)



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