



# CHORUS Research Consortium

## “From Evidence to Impact” Policy Dialogue Series

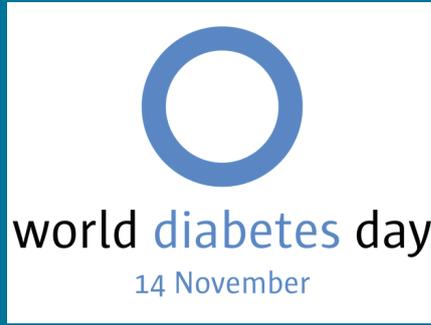
### Strengthening Urban Health Systems to Respond to the Increasing Prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases: Findings from CHORUS

To mark **World Diabetes Day 2025**, the CHORUS Urban Health Research Consortium is bringing together researchers, stakeholders and policymakers to share findings, lessons and insights on strengthening urban health systems to response to the rising crisis in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Urbanisation is associated with an increased prevalence of NCDs, and the urban poor are increasingly vulnerable to the wider determinants of health such as poor water and sanitation, poor diet, overcrowding and pollution. New approaches are required within urban health systems to address this increased prevalence, both structurally and functionally, increasing access to quality public and private primary healthcare with feasible reporting and referral systems.

Join us for a lively discussion, chaired by Professor Rumana Huque (Director, ARK Foundation and CHORUS Bangladesh Co-PI), on the urban specific challenges and responses to implement health system strengthening interventions for improved NCD service delivery.

**WORLD DIABETES DAY**       **THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**      **10:00 AM (UK TIME)**



- 10.00 Welcome
- 10.05 CHORUS findings on urban health system strengthening initiatives to improve NCD service delivery
- 10.25 Panel discussion on the challenges and advantages of implementing linkages between private and informal healthcare providers
- 10.50 Q&A & Closing Remarks

[Register here to secure your place](#)



# Speakers



**Prof. Dr. Syed Zakir Hossain**  
Line Director NCDs,  
Directorate General of  
Health Services, MoHFW,  
Govt of Bangladesh

Professor Hossain is a distinguished Bangladeshi physician, academic, and public health leader recognised for expertise in internal medicine, cardiology, and noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention and control. He holds an MBBS from Sylhet M.A.G. Osmani Medical College, an FCPS in Medicine, and an MD in Cardiology, and joined the Bangladesh Civil Service (Health Cadre) in 2003, with clinical, academic, and leadership roles including Professor of Medicine and Principal of Noakhali Medical College. As recent Line Director for NCDs at DGHS, he also leads national efforts to expand prevention, early detection, and integrated management of chronic diseases—positioning Bangladesh as a regional leader in implementing WHO PEN and PEN-Plus strategies. A passionate researcher and advocate, he continues to advance health policy, system strengthening, and equitable access to care, inspiring professionals and policymakers across the region.

Professor Mridha is Deputy Dean and Director of the Center for Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition of BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka, with extensive expertise in medicine, public health, epidemiology, noncommunicable diseases, public health nutrition, training and leadership in NCDs and nutrition research. He has over 134 original research articles, and has led 28 research projects as PI, with funding from major international agencies. As the founding director of BRAC's Centre of Excellence for NCDs and Nutrition Research, Professor Mridha's work has contributed to the establishment of national NCD and nutrition surveillance systems in Bangladesh, shaping evidence-based public health policies across South Asia. With experience in research design, implementation, and evaluation, he is committed to bridge the gap between scientific research and the large-scale implementation of evidence-based interventions..



**Prof. Malay Kanti Mridha**  
Deputy Dean, Director,  
Centre for NCDs and  
Nutrition, James P Grant  
School of Public Health,  
BRAC University,  
Bangladesh

Dr Bosu has many years experience in research, policy, planning, and the management and control of NCDs. He recently retired as the Principal Professional Officer, Healthcare Delivery at the West African Health Organization (WAHO) where he worked for 12 years, serving initially as the Technical Lead for NCDs, Eye Health, Mental Health and Nutrition, providing technical and policy support to ECOWAS Member States.

Dr Bosu was previously the national Programme Manager for the NCD Prevention and Control Programme in Ghana from 2004 to 2012, and an Adjunct Lecturer in epidemiology and NCDs at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. He is currently an Adjunct Lecturer with the School of Public Health, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Dr Bosu is a member of the International Advisory Board, African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in NCDs, and also a member of the International Society of Hypertension. His research interests include NCD policy and surveillance and nutrition transition. He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians, the Ghana College of Physicians as well as the Faculty of Public Health of UK.



**Dr. William Kofi Bosu**  
NCD Expert and  
Public Health  
Consultant, Ghana



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# CHORUS Resources on Urban Health System Strengthening for Improved NCD Service Delivery



[Key Messages for the Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the Promotion of Mental Health](#)

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

[Paper: Assessing Knowledge of Hypertension and Diabetes Mellitus among Informal Healthcare Providers in Urban Slums in Southeastern Nigeria](#)

[Policy Brief: Preparedness of Urban Primary Healthcare Centres of Bangladesh in Managing Diabetes and Hypertension](#)

[Pathway to Impact: Improving Patient NCD Data in Urban Bangladesh](#)

[Pathway to Impact: Establishing Partnerships to Respond to NCDs in Urban Nepal](#)

[Presentation: Quality of Healthcare Services in Pharmacies of Pokhara](#)

- [Project: Strengthening the urban primary health care system to deliver essential Non-Communicable Disease care to the urban poor](#)
- [Project: Understanding the approaches needed to strengthen the service delivery of non-communicable disease programmes for the urban poor at the primary health care setting in Pokhara, Nepal](#)
- [Project: Linking communities, local government and health workers to support life cycle health promotion and prevention policies, programmes and services at the household and community level in urban poor neighbourhoods in Ghana](#)



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