

## icddr,b maps Dhaka's healthcare landscape

**Dhaka, October 15, 2015**—icddr,b today shared its research findings on the urban healthcare facilities in Dhaka. The organisation's extensive mapping exercise resulted in the first comprehensive picture of the city's dense and complex urban healthcare landscape with over 12,000 health facilities.

The study was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), Bangladesh.

The research team found that more than 94% of all the health facilities are privately owned with more than 1,800 doctors' chambers. The city also has over 8,000 pharmacies. The research findings also show that there are approximately 105 healthcare facilities for every 0.1 million people and approximately four hospital beds per 1,000 people in each of Dhaka's two city corporations.

The researchers also shared results of their Geographic Information System analysis. For example, the study shows that even with the highest concentration of healthcare workforce—compared to the rest of the country—Dhaka still has a striking geographical inequity in the distribution of doctors, especially for the poor and the disadvantaged people. Geospatial analysis also shows gaps in coverage for emergency services such as critical care, neonatal intensive care, and burns units.

Professor John D. Clemens, icddr,b's Executive Director said, "With Bangladesh's growing urban slums we are presented with unique challenges in delivering health care. The first logical step to achieve universal health coverage is to analyze the healthcare landscape. I am very excited to see how our research findings will support strategy thinking for delivering comprehensive healthcare."

Anisul Huq, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation and Chief Guest of the event said, "I would very much welcome collaboration opportunities to help bring in any change in Dhaka's urban health service landscape".

icddr,b team today also launched an online urban health atlas (<http://urbanhealthatlas.dghs.gov.bd/?#>)—a free and open access web application which generates interactive visuals of the mapping data. This atlas can help policy and decision makers to identify existing gaps and effectively plan to improve health service coverage, access and quality.

Professor Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Additional Director General (Planning and Development) and Line Director, MIS, Directorate General of Health Services, commended icddr,b's initiative and affirmed the Government's support for initiatives that support the country's health development goals.

The event concluded with an interactive session with the audience who gave their feedback on improving the usability of the online atlas.

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## **About icddr,b**

*icddr,b is an international public health research institution based in Bangladesh. Established in 1960, icddr,b has been at the forefront of discovering low cost solutions to key health challenges facing people living in poverty and provides robust evidence of their effectiveness at a large scale. Dedicated to saving lives through research and treatment, icddr,b addresses some of the most critical health concerns facing the world today.*