



17th International Conference on Urban Health

Transforming our Collective Urban Future:

Learning from COVID-19

6-8 July 2021



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Coordination, collaboration or confusion?

Urban governance and the private sector in the COVID-19 response: experiences from the CHORUS urban health systems research consortium in West Africa and South Asia

ICUH Panel Session: Wednesday 7 July 13.30 – 15.00



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City governments in many countries in South Asia and Africa are responsible for the health of their populations, including provision of primary care services. The response to COVID-19 has placed great strain across the health and social sectors, highlighting inequities in prevention, care and livelihoods. The pandemic has shown the willingness of some in the private sector to support public health provision across sectors. Understanding the role, experiences and lessons learnt by city and national governments in engaging with the multiplicity of private providers during the COVID-19 response is fundamental to future-proofing urban governance and public health systems.

We will share and identify lessons learnt from cities in Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria and Bangladesh on the role the private sectors have played in the pandemic response, and how far city governments have been able to coordinate, regulate or harness the strength of the private sector to protect the health of low-income city residents. Our panellists represent the research partners within the CHORUS – Community-led Effective and Responsive Urban health Systems – research consortium. From January 2020 CHORUS partners conducted detailed policy and media reviews to understand the role and governance of the private sector in the response to COVID-19.



Objectives

- i. To present an analysis of the spectrum of private for-profit, not-for-profit and informal providers and their role in the response to COVID-19.
- ii. To explore the role of city, regional and national governments in coordination and governance of private providers during COVID-19.
- iii. To identify lessons learned.

Presentations

1. Within the context of federalisation, the changing roles of municipalities and private sector engagement in COVID-response and its impact on city residents in Nepal.
2. Contributions of the government and private sectors towards alleviating covid-19 impacts, governance challenges and implementation disconnects encountered by city governments and the urban poor.
3. The novel contribution of the private sector in a multi-sector response to COVID-19 in Nigeria, the challenges of coordination and transparency in managing financial and material resources and implications for vulnerable urban dwellers.
4. The role of city government and private sectors (for-profit and NGOs) in tackling the crisis of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, coordination and synergies across different ministries at central and city levels.

Our four speakers will be joined by panellists from across CHORUS to lead a discussion with webinar participants.

Chair: Zahidul Quayyum, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh

Presenters:

- Chinyere Mbachu: Health Policy Research Group & Department of Community Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria
- Deepa Barua: ARK Foundation, Bangladesh
- Shophika Regmi: HERD International, Nepal
- Lauren J. Wallace: Ghana School of Public Health, University of Ghana

Panellists:

- Obinna Onwujekwe: Health Policy Research Group & Department of Health Administration and Management, College of Medicine, University of Nigeria
- Rumana Huque: ARK Foundation, Bangladesh
- Genevieve Cecilia Aryeetey: School of Public Health, University of Ghana
- Sushil Baral: HERD International, Nepal
- Irene Agyepong: Public Health Faculty, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons

Organiser: Helen Else, Department of Health Sciences, University of York