

# Addressing mental and neurological disorders: Impact evaluation of ongoing projects to strengthen primary health-care

Report of the Regional Meeting of Experts  
Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1–3 December 2011

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## Acronyms

ASD	autism spectrum disorders
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BSMMU	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University
CDMP	chronic disease management programme
DALYs	disability-adjusted life years
FYP	five-year plan
GAF	Global Assessment of Function
HPNSDP	Health Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme
mhGAP	Mental Health Gap Action Programme
NCD	Noncommunicable diseases
NGOs	nongovernmental organizations
PHC	primary health-care
PCPS	Primary Care Partnership Scheme
SEAR	South-East Asia Region
SES	skills education session
SPEA	school-based parents' education and awareness programme
VHV	village health volunteer
VHW	voluntary health worker
WHO	World Health Organization
YLD	years lost due to disability
YLL	years of life lost



## Executive summary

A three-day meeting of regional experts on “Impact evaluation of the ongoing projects to strengthen the primary health-care delivery system for mental health-care” was organized by the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 1 to 3 December 2011. Professor Dr A.F.M. Ruhul Haque, Minister of Health, Government of Bangladesh, inaugurated the meeting.

Delegates from eight South-East Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste) and five Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries (Brunei, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam) participated in the meeting along with observers from Bangladesh. The experts comprised programme managers, policy-makers and mental health professionals. Different perspectives, experiences and results of innovative interventions to strengthen the existing primary health-care (PHC) system to deliver care for mental and neurological disorders were shared and discussed.

The objective of the meeting was to review the results of the ongoing pilot projects and to determine if the strategy can successfully deliver care to more patients who need treatment. The outcomes of the projects have been assessed by measuring reduction in “treatment gap”. The scope of the intervention in terms of acceptability and feasibility to scale up the projects to national and cross-national levels were also evaluated.

Dr Vijay Chandra, Regional Adviser, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, initiated the technical

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