

BANGLADESH

THINK
WELL

WHO WE ARE

ThinkWell is a development organization driven by a vision of a world with greatly improved health and well-being. Since 2011, ThinkWell has helped over 30 countries through offices across Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. We combine global technical and managerial excellence with on-the-ground insights into country-level changes and opportunities. Our mission is to ignite system-level transformation that helps countries achieve lasting improvements in the health and well-being of society.

We combine programmatic excellence with local expertise to create nuanced and informed solutions. Our interdisciplinary team comprises well-known, high-ranking global health systems experts, including economists, policy and public health specialists, and private sector experts. However, we don't do it alone; we collaborate with health systems leaders locally and globally in the public and private sectors.

ThinkWell Bangladesh specializes in health service delivery systems, domestic resource mobilization,

evidence-based planning, and strategic purchasing in the technical areas of primary health care, immunization, maternal and reproductive health, and family planning. Since 2012, we have contributed to a more robust health system in Bangladesh by accomplishing the following:

- Generating and sharing evidence necessary for planning at the national level
- Supporting private sector development
- Carrying out rapid situational assessments of health financing
- Conducting in-depth economic and cost-benefit analyses

Through our work, we have provided support to various government bodies, including the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) Planning and Public Health Wings and Health Economics Unit (HEU), and the Directorates General of Health Services (DGHS), including the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), and Family Planning (DGFP).

WHAT WE DO



HEALTH
FINANCING



POLICY
ACTION



HEALTH
ECONOMICS



RESEARCH &
LEARNING



PRIVATE SECTOR/
PHARMACEUTICALS

KEY PROGRAMS IN BANGLADESH

ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

ThinkWell delivered locally generated evidence and contextual expertise to transform the Surjer Hashi Network (SHN)—one of Bangladesh’s largest NGO-run health care networks—into a self-sustainable, pro-poor social enterprise. With funding from USAID and a network of local and international partners, ThinkWell supported the development of a business strategy, revenue generation plan, and an innovative service delivery model to maximize client impact and cost recovery.

INVESTMENT CASE FOR LIFE-COURSE IMMUNIZATION

With support from UNICEF, ThinkWell worked extensively with Bangladesh’s EPI to conduct a cost-benefit economic analysis of “Comprehensive Investment in Life-course Vaccination.” We provided direct strategic support to the MOHFW and offered a robust, compelling immunization investment case to reach sustained high coverage and introduce additional life-saving vaccines during the next eight-year period. We estimated the benefits and costs of the country’s immunization strategy and calculated the return on investment. We also analyzed the financial landscape for immunization and conducted a fiscal space analysis to compare the costs to the funding outlook. This activity will be a cornerstone of future advocacy efforts to mobilize domestic resources for immunization, preparing Bangladesh for a transition from Gavi support.

HEALTH POLICY ACTIONS FOR COVID-19

In 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched activities to address COVID-19 in Bangladesh. ThinkWell supports three projects on preparedness for pandemic response, social protection, and COVID-19 vaccine procurement and deployment. We supported the Government of Bangladesh to develop relevant policy actions with a focus on pandemic response and mitigating immediate to mid-term negative impacts. We also prepared policy actions for ADB’s social protection program as well as loans for COVID-19 vaccine procurement.

IMPROVING PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2020-2023, ThinkWell led the “Enabling Resource Flows for Essential Health Service Delivery in Bangladesh, in the context of COVID-19” project. We supported the Government of Bangladesh (GOB), including DGHS, DGFP, and the HEU at MOHFW, with evidence to inform strategic investments to strengthen essential health service delivery. We rapidly assessed essential service provision and utilization and reviewed health financing bottlenecks at primary health care (PHC) facilities. Based on the findings, with experts from the facilities and the ministry, we co-created solutions to address barriers to public financial management and health financing to improve resource flows and utilization.

IMMUNIZATION DELIVERY COSTING

To support the GOB, we conducted a comprehensive, bottom-up study to generate cost evidence on delivering COVID-19 vaccines in Bangladesh. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we estimated the cost of using different delivery strategies in the context of vaccine supply constraints and evolving target populations. In addition to estimating the delivery costs from a payer perspective, we also estimated the cost incurred by beneficiaries, mapped funding flows, and analyzed the operational and financial challenges of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The study offered critical evidence to support the GOB in making evidence-informed decisions for the country’s equitable rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and other immunization programs.

MONITORING HEALTH SECTOR PROGRESS

ThinkWell was contracted by the World Bank to lead Bangladesh’s Health Nutrition and Population Sector Development Program (HPNSDP) Annual Program Reviews (APRs), which monitor progress in the health sector program in Bangladesh. ThinkWell conducted a full analysis of 32 operational plans across the health sector in Bangladesh, wrote an executive summary and recommendations report, and generated a presentation summarizing overall findings.