



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

eHealth Initiatives for Digital Bangladesh



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Management Information System (MIS) Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

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The eHealth initiatives of
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

- Simple
- Quick
- Accessible

Telemedicine

High quality telemedicine system has been placed in a network of 8 hospitals (two specialized, three district and three upazila hospitals). Patients are receiving quick specialist consultation from remote places without requiring to travel. This minimizes trouble and saves money and time. Similar system will be expanded to about 50 centers. In all upazila and district hospitals, there are web cameras, which may be used for telemedicine. By 2012, mini laptops will be provided to all of union health facilities and community clinics (18,000 Nos.), which will expand opportunity to roll out telemedicine to rural people.

Mobile phone health service

People are getting doctor's advice 24h/7d via mobile phones from all upazila & district hospitals of Bangladesh free of cost. The mobile phone numbers are available on our website (www.dghs.gov.bd) and are also available in the Union Information & Service Centers.

Citizens' Complain/Suggestion Box

Citizens can send complain or suggestion about quality of health services provided from any public health facility through SMS using mobile phone. All text messages are gathered centrally and redirected to concerned authority and policy makers for necessary action.

Remote Office Attendance Monitoring System

Bundled in a system of land phone, mobile phone, Internet, video conferencing, web based monitoring and remote biometric system, and capable to monitor from central level, the innovative Remote Office Attendance Monitoring System has been very effective to reduce unauthorized office absenteeism of doctors and other staffs in the government-owned hospitals and health facilities of Bangladesh.

Aponjon - mHealth for pregnancy and neonatal care

To be launched soon, this is a public-private partnership program of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (GoB),

USAID, D.Net and Telcos to deliver week by week advice to pregnant mothers through SMS and Interactive Voice Response for care of their pregnancy and newborn. This service will add new dimension to the existing SMS advice service for pregnancy introduced by MIS-Health of DGHS. In the later service, on registration via cell-phone SMS, pregnant mothers receive appropriate periodic antenatal, safe delivery and postnatal care advice by SMS.

Citizens' Electronic Health Register to link with National Population Registry

The health workers of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are near end of collecting citizens' demographic and health data from every rural household. Machine readable forms are being used to capture the household data across country. National online database will be created. Updating of database will be done each month. The system will enable authority to understand health and population situation of the country as a whole and community by community and to track individual health record any time. It is planned that this database will be linked to the government's planned National Population Registry (NPR).

GIS for health service & disease pattern mapping

Global Positioning System (GPS) device has been provided to each district and upazila health office. We are capturing GIS coordinate data for all health facilities and health service points and adding those maps with health facility-wise information. Citizens can get the information through Internet. We are expanding GIS information-base to upazila level to extensively use GIS for disease pattern mapping and spotting other geo-locations important for health, population and nutrition services.

Capacity building

We created modern digital training facility with the state of the art gadgets, such as, digital podium and sound, interactive board, wireless presentation, wi-fi network, video conferencing, etc. and provided training to all concerned staffs as low as up to upazila level on use of ICT, health information system and ehealth. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is recruiting 13,500 computer literate Community Health Care Providers to expand ehealth

services across the rural communities through Community Clinics.

Other ICT- & mobile-phone based tools & services

We are in constant development of new tools and services to reach to our citizens and improve quality of health services.

The future of National Digital Health System in Bangladesh

As of now all health points of public sector down to upazila level (~800 places) are connected with unlimited Internet. By 2012, it is planned to expand the connectivity down to union health facilities and community clinics at village levels. Networking and data connectivity will be expanded at all points within each hospital and at the grassroots with community health workers. The citizens have also been considered in the link. The initiatives of the ministry are moving in a direction to create an environment by 2016 for automated countrywide networked system for real time data availability and sharing, listening to citizens and making policy decisions based on information evidence. The ministry will explore more and more opportunities for delivering services to the citizens by using ICT and with aim for reducing their hassles. To reach to this destination, work has already begun for setting data standards, data interoperability, data sharing model, framework development, etc.

