

Letter to the Editor

Evolution and Metamorphosis in my Career: from a Junior Public Health Physician to an UN Employee – What's all about?

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Soon after my medical graduation (MBBS from Rajshahi Medical College), I obtained a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) from NIPSOM, Bangladesh.

Right after that I joined TMSS (Thengamara Mahila Sabuj Sangha), where I worked for 7 years period of time.

I devoted myself for the successive years in acquiring a wider range of knowledge and skill development activities purely on largely focused in community health.

For the next few successive years I devoted myself to focus on public health issues that ranged from clinico-epidemiology of various infectious and communicable diseases, environmental hazards and food safety issues.

Then I decided to work with any international NGO, particularly with the UN organizations. Thus, I joined the WHO where I served 7 years.

I started my Public Health career since 2012 as a Medical Officer at the TMSS for Emergency Medical support, at Dhaka, and then as Surveillance Medical Officer in Immunization and Vaccination Programme (IVD) for WHO, Bangladesh in Chittagong Division where I was posted for Rangamati and Khagrachhari district and now I am working as Surveillance Medical Officer at Kala-azar Elimination Programme (KEP) at WHO for Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna Division.

What I learned from Public Health:

- Conducted programme to update the specific situation analysis for the design development and implemented management of health related programmes.

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- Experienced in disease surveillance activities and implemented all affordable preventive measures through promoting mass awareness maintaining WHO QC standards.
- Provided technical assistance in capacity building of and upazila, district and divisional health staffs in case management.
- Worked closely and in collaboration with WHO colleagues and partners to discuss operational and implementation issues, provided solutions, recommendations.
- Conducted regular field visits and surveys as programme demanded, and shared information with partners and stakeholders to assess progress and provide technical support and/or refer to relevant officials to resolve issues/problems.
- Developing capacity of district and upazila health staffs in quality work and data analysis to ensure timely corrective actions.
- Have had a hands on orientation and having in depth knowledge about EPI program and its coverage.
- Expertise in EOR (Emergency Outbreak Response) activities.
- Experienced in preparing case studies, quarterly & annual reports.

Immunization and Vaccination Development (IVD) program:

- Providing technical support to the WHO's Program and Surveillance of Immunization and Vaccination Development program in Planning and Implementing programme interventions.

- Contributed to the development and establishment of sectoral programme goals, objectives, strategies of IVD (as SMO IVD).
- Maintained routine correspondence and liaison with implementing partners organizations, Private hospitals and NGOs and other stakeholders involved in IVD program.
- Provided technical assistance for education and social mobilization of health and family planning officials, NGOs and target population regarding IVD program activities.

Kala-azar Elimination Program:

- Surveillance of Kala-azar Elimination Program in Planning and Implementing programme interventions.
- Contributed to the development and establishment of sectoral programme goals, objectives, strategies of KEP (as SMO KEP).
- Maintained routine correspondence and liaison with implementing partners organizations, Private hospitals and NGOs and other stakeholders involved in KEP.

- Provided technical assistance for education and social mobilization of health and family planning officials, NGOs and target population regarding KEP activities.

What I achieved:

- 1) Could achieve a 100% targeted facility/UHC ensured access of diagnosis and treatment respectively.
- 2) Monitoring of stock availability of diagnostics & medicines with quality.
- 3) I assisted the official administrators to make an 80% increased documentation on referral system at CC (Community Clinic) & UHC (Upazila Health Complex) level.

Achievements in Kala-azar Elimination Program:

- 1) 90% targeted upazila ensured with updated and validated Kala-azar data under NKEP with timely feedback.
- 2) Could achieve 75% 1st F/U and 55% 2nd F/U of new KA cases ensured at upazila and facility level.
- 3) Planned orientation training on early detection & suspect identification of Kala-azar by 75% and PKDL cases for Doctor/Nurse and to the CHWs organized and conducted.