



**TIME :** 10:00am

**DATE :** 27 September 2019

**VENUE :**  
Conference Room 1 UNHQ

**SPONSORS :**  
Bangladesh,  
Shuchona Foundation,  
and more



## **Sustainable Universal Health Coverage** Comprehensive primary care inclusive of mental health and disabilities

As we are aspiring for good health and well-being for all (SDG 3), the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has put Universal Health Coverage (UHC) on top of its discussion agenda, including amongst others, a High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the Heads of Governments of the Member States. The 72nd World Health Assembly (May 2019) adopted a resolution drawing attention of this UN-HLM calling for continuing investment in and strengthening primary healthcare as a cornerstone of a sustainable health system. The goal is to achieve UHC and other health-related SDGs, with a view to provide a comprehensive range of services and care that are people-centered, of high quality, safe, integrated, accessible, available and affordable.

It is imperative that healthcare provisions be inclusive of care for mental health conditions, developmental disorders, and disabilities. The insufficient and poor-quality mental health and disability care in the low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), combined with stigma and discrimination, jeopardizes the families of individuals suffering from mental health conditions or disabilities. The only effective way to mitigate this risk is to ensure that mental health and disability supports are incorporated in the planning of UHC for all LMICs.

Providing integrated physical, mental and rehabilitative health services in primary healthcare through community settings is a cost-effective approach and a proven method to reducing the burden on secondary and tertiary care hospitals. However, the need for mental health and disability care is often forgotten while planning and designing primary healthcare or UHC.

With a view to draw attention to this hard reality, Bangladesh along with Shuchona Foundation, a non-profit organization specializing in mental health and neurodevelopmental disorders, is going to host a side event during the 74th UNGA. A number of Heads of governments, health ministers, and other dignitaries have been invited to the High-Level Segment of the side event. This will be followed by a Technical Segment where experts, self-advocates, and implementors will speak on a range of illuminating topics such as, sustainable model of comprehensive community-based primary healthcare and UHC, parity between physical and mental health, suicide prevention, disability care, etc. Bangladesh will showcase its community clinics as a proven effective and sustainable model of delivering comprehensive primary healthcare inclusive of mental health and disability care.

The side event will be a great learning opportunity. We hope to see you there!



# Sustainable Universal Health Coverage

Comprehensive primary care inclusive of mental health and disabilities  
High Level Panel Discussion

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## Invited High-Level Dignitaries

**HE Sheikh Hasina, MP**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh

**HE Dr. Lotay Tshering**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan

**Zahid Maleque, MP**, Hon'ble Health Minister of Bangladesh

**Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh**, Regional Director of WHO-SEARO

## Technical Segment

### Expert Discussants



**Professor Dr. Abul Kalam Azad**  
Director General, Directorate General of Health Services  
Bangladesh



**Evelyn Cherow, MA, MPA**  
CEO/Founder  
Global Partners United



**Stephen Shore, Ed.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Education  
Adelphi University, NY



**Michael Rosanoff, MPH**  
Senior Director, Project 2025 at the American  
Foundation for Suicide Prevention, New York



**Saima Wazed Hossain**  
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region  
Chairperson, National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Bangladesh  
Chairperson, Shuchona Foundation  
**Moderator**

