

International symposium on 'Community Health Workers 2019'

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International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) is set to organize the second international symposium on Community Health Workers (CHWs)-2019 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka from November 22 to 24.

Icddr,b in partnership with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the government; James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), Brac University; and the Save the Children is organizing the event.

This year's theme is "Potentials of Community Health Workers in Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Context of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)."

The website (<http://chwsymposium2019.icddr.org>) for the symposium is now live to enable participants from Bangladesh and other countries to register, submit poster and abstract, and seek scholarships.

The CHWs are unsung heroes and have been a powerful workforce in promoting health services around the world. Informally originated in China in the 1920s, they were initially engaged in birth and death registration, vaccination, providing basic health education and first-aid services.

Presently, the CHWs are considered as "second class" service provider for "temporary solutions" and has received increased attention in many low-and-middle income countries including Bangladesh.

The Dhaka symposium intends to bring academics, health experts, development partners and other relevant professionals to a common platform to discuss about the past successes and challenges with the CHWs.