

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

‘Health for All’ is one of the main preconditions of balanced development of any nation. Health is an essential component of individual and societal livelihood. And, in any sovereign state, it is the responsibility of the government to assure healthcare provision for the whole population. But the public health agenda has become so large that the governments of most of the countries have been unable to provide adequate health care. This has expedited the organizations outside the government to assume part of that responsibility. In fact, lack of proper response on the part of the public sector to meet the hopes, desires and aspirations of the poor of the society has treated as one of the main reasons for the emergence and growth of NGOs in Bangladesh. Thus in the present socio-economic context of Bangladesh, NGOs have earned a significantly firm position and have played a catalytic role towards national development. It is a proven fact that working in isolation can result in duplication of efforts and failure to accomplish health goals, whereas collaboration among health care providers can generate synergy and facilitate the flow of information. Moreover, it is a must to establish a vibrant and effective networked-governance in the health care sector of the country to achieve the related goals of the much-talked MDGs within the stipulated time frame and bring about the desired qualitative change in the country’s health care sector.

‘Governance’ is now a tripartite and shared endeavor in which each sector has its own comparative advantages and fulfills roles that are most appropriate to it. In this multi-sector governance regime, each sector specializes in what it does best without detracting from the government’s role as a guarantor of social justice and well-being of the people. The government needs to constantly explore the best means, to achieve its ultimate goal of ensuring the basic needs, fulfillment of its citizens, and with a view to fulfill its obligations and responsibilities to the citizens. In the face of declining economic conditions, budget constraints and shrinking expenditures in social sectors, governments in developing countries are turning to the private and non-profit sectors as potential partners in healthcare delivery.

Governments in developing countries are gradually expanding their vision of NGOs from mere contractors, or supplementary or complementary agents for the government, to respected

Bangladeshi NGO, partnerships in TB-control, EPI, FP, and Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival Projects manifest the success stories of GO-NGO collaboration in health sector of Bangladesh.

To sum up, in order to ensure '*Health for All*' and achieve the goals of the MDGs, we do need proper and pragmatic initiatives to utilizing the potentials of both the sectors. A genuine partnership can be developed between the GO and NGOs on the basis of mutual respect, acceptance of autonomy, independence and pluralism of opinions and positions. Both the partners need to be recognized that collaboration is a long-term affair and it needs to be developed on mutual trust and respect, which would ensure to utilize the potentials of both the sectors and also ensure mutual benefits. The need for such collaboration to a great extent is supported by the major stakeholders, including donors; disadvantaged people themselves, and the civil society at large.

or valued partners in the design and implementation of all inclusive Medicare facilities for all the citizens of the country. Some NGOs provide successful example of sustainable model for the provision of comprehensive primary healthcare services, in which healthcare services are financed through private financing and cost recovery. Bangladesh is no exception in this regard. Bangladesh government has been trying to establish fruitful networks with the NGOs for smooth implementation of various nation building programmes. Hence, collaboration or partnership is needed to fully exploit the potential strengths of all the sectors towards fulfilling the health care needs of the people. It is always a challenging task for any developing country as usual. And, all these problems have a profound impact on the standard and quality of the human life, particularly for the poor.

It is a fact that ensuring '*Health for All*' is a gigantic task, and the central role in this regard lie with the government because of its legitimacy, constitutional obligation, revenue money, coercive power and public support in running the country. But, as a result of the changing geo-political situation over the past few years, the interface between the government and the NGOs has increasingly been playing a vital complementary role in bringing about positive changes in the healthcare sector of Bangladesh, and thus in achieving the Goals of MDGs and national targets as well.

This study has mainly dealt with the assessment of the present condition of GO-NGO coordination in managing the health sector of Bangladesh as per the 'Health Policy—2011'. And, to attain this objective, this study has attempted to find out the answers of (i) how far the existing GO-NGO collaboration is effective in managing the healthcare sector in the present condition of Bangladesh ?, (ii) what is the role of BRAC within the GO-NGO interface framework in running the health programmes in Bangladesh ?, and (iii) whether the

present state of GO-NGO coordination in healthcare sector management is supportive for achieving the policy-goals stated in the 'Health policy—2011'?

From this study, we can trace out some very successful GO-NGO partnership programmes between GOB and health sector NGOs which are also supportive to the policy-goals of the **Health policy-2011**. For example, the existing GOB and BRAC, the world-leader