



SUCCESS STORY

WASH/IPC COVID-19 Activity—Bangladesh



Photo: Elija Chambugang

NAME: Mohammed Masudul Hasan

ROLE: Cleaner

LOCATION: Bakerganj, Barishal, Bangladesh

“MOTIVATED MASUDUL” STORY OF A CLEANER IN A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITY IN BANGLADESH

By: Dr. Rifat Hannan, Tanvir Islam, Elija Chambugang

For years, Mohammed Masudul Hasan worked as a cleaner at the Bakerganj Upazila Health Complex. When the COVID-19 pandemic reached his workplace, he worried about continuing to work in the hospital. He had no knowledge of appropriate COVID-19 prevention techniques, which endangered both him and his loved ones. However, within a few days, he and all levels of health workers in his facility were invited to participate in a training program on “Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Healthcare Settings” by the MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and IPC COVID-19 Activity.

Through this training, Masudul learned about IPC protocols, including use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for cleaners, appropriate use of masks, and handwashing steps. In addition, he learned the importance of cleaning hospital surfaces with proper disinfectants, including high-touch areas (e.g., bedrails, faucets, light, and fan switches). Prior to the activity, the health facility had insufficient masks, let alone other PPE items, such as utility gloves, gum boots, cleaning materials, and waste bins.

During the training, MOMENTUM provided equipment and supplies to Masudul to practice with and use. As a result, he has now uses them in his daily tasks. Since attending the training, Masudul has followed all the prevention protocols and feels more confident, safe, and relieved because all his fellow hospital colleagues also became aware of IPC protocols.

Before the IPC training, Masudul had little grasp of the various types of waste bins and the proper segregation of waste items. Now, stickers on the new color-coded bins give clear instructions on the type of waste to be thrown in each bin and Masudul can easily move these smaller, transportable bins. He has noticed that others are also following the new proper waste disposal system. “Earlier, there was scarcity of waste bins in our hospitals. Now there are different colored bins and we have learned how to use those bins properly,” he said. Masudul is also thankful that MOMENTUM set up a burn pit on the hospital premises for proper disposal of medical waste. A display board covers the protocols for which type of materials to burn.

The MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership WASH/IPC COVID-19 Activity, funded by U.S. Agency for International Development, has worked to prevent outbreaks and control infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, through ensuring safety of health workers. This story suggests how improving knowledge and practices of a vital health care staff member can improve WASH and IPC in a health facility.



SUCCESS STORY

WASH/IPC COVID-19 Activity—Bangladesh



Photo: Sahab Uddin

NAME: Momota Halder

ROLE: Senior Staff Nurse

LOCATION: Agailjhara, Barishal, Bangladesh

“CHANGING AND ADAPTING MOMOTA” STORY OF A NURSE FROM A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITY IN BANGLADESH

By: Dr. Rifat Hannan, Tanvir Islam, Elija Chambugang

Since 2014, Momota Halder has been a senior staff nurse at Agailjhara Health Complex, where she manages the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) corner. During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, she grasped the necessity of frequent handwashing (before, in between, and after attending a patient) with soap and running water. However, she noticed that there were hardly any handwashing stations or hand hygiene materials at her workplace.

Momota was very fearful of contracting COVID-19, as the IMCI corner was located close to emergency and triage areas. She knew there was a chance of cross contamination; some of her colleagues had already contracted COVID-19. While she had received some online training at the onset of the pandemic, it included very little about self-protection. At Momota’s request, the health facility manager installed a basin for handwashing next to the IMCI corner. However, the installed sink was located in a common-area and did not have sufficient hygiene materials, such as soap or hand sanitizer.

Meanwhile, Momota learned that a training on infection prevention and control (IPC) in health care settings would be provided for all staff through the MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership WASH/IPC COVID-19 Activity.

MOMENTUM also installed handwashing stations in selected areas in the hospital as well as in front of the IMCI corner and triage room. Momota and her colleagues welcomed the hygiene supplies and benefitted from the capacity building and training on IPC, screening, and burn pits for safe disposal of waste. Momota felt relieved and safe. “Now we can encourage other visitors to wash their hands for their own protection from COVID-19,” she said.

The MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership WASH/IPC COVID-19 Activity, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has worked for the prevention of outbreaks and control of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, through ensuring the safety of health care providers. This story is an example of how making handwashing facilities available and accessible changed the behavior of health facility staff.